



Senator Bates, Representative Nathanson and Members Subcommittee on Human Services:

The Oregon Health Leadership Council (OHLC) supports Senate Bill 900A, which is in front of your committee today. We believe that SB 900A represents the correct approach for our state, and a critical first step, in order to empower consumers with price information around common hospital procedures.

The OHLC brings together all the major insurers, providers, CCOs, and business leaders in the state in an effort to work on the triple aim and other topics, including price transparency. The stakeholders at the OHLC recognize patients need information to make informed health care choices. SB 900A would provide them a trusted, single location to seek and compare median prices. We believe this bill represents the most efficient and user-friendly approach.

Our members, like many Oregonians, were unhappy to learn that Oregon scored an "F" in each of the last two years on the Catalyst for Payment Reform report card measuring health care price transparency. We have had fruitful discussions on this topic, and come to the conclusion that moving our state from an "F" to an "A" is a shared responsibility. We have learned from the Catalyst for Payment Reform that the state-run website created by SB 900A would help Oregon raise its grade on that important report card and in the process become a national leader in price transparency.

Because our members support of broader approaches to price transparency, OHLC has gone beyond support of SB 900A alone. We support a policy to provide, upon request, good faith estimates for self-pay and out-of-network patients for planned-ahead services. In fact the OHLC Board just last week adopted a charter for a advisory group to begin developing this work. Their charge is to pursue a model to advance greater disclosure of out-of-pocket responsibility for insured patients by insurers, and to advance other transparency recommendations.

We believe this bill represents a low-impact, high-value approach, which should help Oregonians access the data they need to understand pricing and begin conversations with their care givers. We look forward to working with the members of this committee on future proposals that require legislative support.

In the meantime, we urge your support of SB 900A.

Sincerely,

Greg Van Pelt  
President