



THE OHIO SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS INC.

To: Chairman Hackett and Members of the Senate Insurance Committee
From: William Glenn MD, President of the Ohio Society of Anesthesiologists
Date: November 5, 2019
RE: Written Testimony in support of SB 198

As President of the Ohio Society of Anesthesiologists (OSA), the physician organization representing over 1200 practicing anesthesiologists in Ohio, I write to convey our support of SB 198 and commend Senators Steve Huffman and Nickie Antonio for their leadership in bringing this issue forward.

As hospital-based physicians, anesthesiologists are either employed by the hospital or have a contract with the hospital to provide anesthesia services. In the case of employment by the hospital, the anesthesiologist's services are in the same network as the facility. In cases where anesthesiologists have a contract with the hospital, the group practice contracts with insurers independently of the facility or facilities where they provide care.

"Surprise bills" occur when a patient receives a bill for the difference between the out of network provider's fee and the amount covered by the patient's health insurance. Patients often assume that facility-based providers like anesthesiologists are in-network because their surgeon and hospital are in-network.

Regardless of the employment model, we believe that patients should not be caught in the middle of dispute between insurers and physicians that may result in a "surprise bill". This bill seeks to address unanticipated out-of-network care.

SB 198 proposes a proven model to end "surprise bills" by specifying a baseball style arbitration process similar to models adopted by New York and Texas. For bills over \$700, an insurer or physician can take a claim to arbitration. The arbitrator must either choose the physician's best offer OR the insurer's best offer. This incentivizes both parties to come to the table with a reasonable reimbursement amount. If either party presents an outlier amount, the arbitrator is not likely to choose that amount. For bills under \$700, the legislation proposes an amount based on an independent third-party data base selected by the Ohio Department of Insurance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony and we look forward to any questions or comments you may have.