



M. Teresa Paiva Weed
President

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
House Health and Human Services Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: CONCERN - H. 7880

Dear Chair Donovan:

The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and its members are committed to empowering patients with all the information they need to live their healthiest lives. This includes ensuring they have access to accurate price information when seeking care.

As of Jan. 1, 2021, the federal Hospital Price Transparency Rule requires hospitals to publicly post via machine-readable files five different "standard charges": gross charges; payer-specific negotiated rates; de-identified minimum and maximum negotiated rates; and discounted cash prices. The rule also requires hospitals to provide patients with an out-of-pocket cost estimator tool or payer-specific negotiated rates for at least 300 shoppable services. H.7880 is duplicative of the federal regulation.

HARI and its members are eager to continue working towards providing the best possible price estimates for their patients. However, we are concerned that codification of the federal regulation could lead to confusion and additional administrative burden when updates to the federal regulation do not align with the state law.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to improve the health of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso", is written over a horizontal line.

Lisa P. Tomasso
Senior Vice President