



To: Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

From: Rachelle Colombo
Executive Director

Date: January 29, 2020

Re: SB 282 – Enacting the Patient’s Right to Know Act

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in opposition to SB 282. SB 282 requires health care providers and insurers to provide detailed price and cost information to patients for any service which costs more than \$500. Required cost information includes an estimate of the total cost of care, including potential hospitalization. The estimate must be provided prior to initiating any healthcare services. The bill would apply to healthcare providers as well as to health insurers.

Though intended to provide patients with a better understanding of likely healthcare costs as its companion, SB 281, this bill is substantially more proscriptive and problematic. Implementation would be burdensome for providers and insurers and its requirements would not necessarily provide a more realistic cost projection for patients. SB 282 fails to acknowledge that not all medical intervention is predictable, nor is the cost arrived upon in the same manner for all providers in all settings.

As an example, a surgeon would have to provide an estimate of the cost of the procedure, including the costs for services provided by other providers who are likely to be involved in the procedure, such as anesthesia, pathology, consultants, as well as the total charge for the hospitalization and all related services necessary during *and after* the procedure. While the cost of the actual procedure can be projected, the necessity of engaging other clinical consultants and associated testing or treatments they may order is not always foreseeable, nor are the contractual arrangements among all of the providers on the care team the same.

Though the Kansas Medical Society does not oppose efforts to improve healthcare cost transparency. However, such efforts should not force costly and burdensome hurdles to providing patient care that project false or inaccurate expectations about the potential cost of such care. KMS opposes SB 282 and respectfully requests your unfavorable consideration of the proposal.