

April 10, 2017

The Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

RE: Amend HB 123 – Relating to the Creation of an Incentive Program for Health Care Consumers to Shop for Service

Dear Honorable Members of the Montana House of Representatives:

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) request you that you amend HB 123. ASPS represents more than 7,000 board-certified plastic surgeons. Because ASPS's mission prioritizes the patient experience, we support much of HB 123 as currently written, particularly its provisions increasing the level of patient-facing disclosure about potential out-of-network encounters. However, we have concerns about the structure of the new program it creates to encourage patients to shop around for health services.

Plastic surgeons are among the most transparent specialties when it comes to disclosing the cost of their services. Consequently, ASPS fundamentally supports price transparency and patients' right to make informed, multifactorial decisions about which provider they choose to see. ASPS's concerns with HB 123 lie with the breadth of information available to patients as they evaluate all the important factors involved in choosing a provider. Specifically, there are three ways in which the bill should be amended to improve the new website for shoppable health care services it creates:

- 1) If the objective is to maximize patient choice, then it should not limit the providers it includes. Non-network participants should be added, and patients should be free to choose providers that present the best combination of quality and price information, regardless of network status.
- 2) The prices listed should also detail what services and devices they include.
- 3) Physicians should have the ability to monitor and edit their profiles. In addition to editing for accuracy, physicians should also be able to add before/after images, payment options, and information about their practice philosophy.

For the reasons outlined above, please **amend HB 123**. Please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Hermes, ASPS's Senior Manager of Advocacy and Government Affairs, with any questions at [phermes@plasticsurgery.org](mailto:phermes@plasticsurgery.org) or (847) 228-3331.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Johnson MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debra Johnson, MD  
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons