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June 22, 2016

The Honorable Michael Burgess, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Burgess:

On behalf of the American Hospital Association's (AHA) nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our 43,000 individual members, I am writing in support of H.R. 5547, the Health Care Price Transparency Promotion Act of 2016.

Consumers deserve meaningful information about the price of their hospital care, and hospital leaders are as committed to sharing price information as they are to sharing information about quality. The AHA believes that states, working with their state hospital associations, are the best source for sharing meaningful pricing data. In fact, 44 states already have mandatory or voluntary requirements for hospitals to report information on hospital charges or payment rates and make that data available to the public. Your legislation builds on this existing structure, and also requires insurers to participate in the disclosure process by providing information on estimated out-of-pocket costs for health care services, which is invaluable information for consumers.

H.R. 5547 also would require the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to conduct a study on the types of price information that consumers want and would find useful in their health care decision-making. This is valuable because, while we have research on the kind of information consumers want about health care quality, we know less about what they might want to know about pricing.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to working with you to advance your legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomas P. Nickels
Executive Vice President

