

Contact: Marie Watteau, 202-626-2351, mwatteau@aha.org

Carly Moore, 202-638-5487, cmoore@aha.org

STATEMENT ON HEALTH CARE PRICE TRANSPARENCY PROMOTION ACT

RICH UMBDENSTOCK PRESIDENT AND CEO AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

MARCH 26, 2013

Consumers deserve meaningful information about the price of their hospital care, and hospitals are committed to sharing this information with patients. The AHA believes that states, working with their state hospital associations, are the best source for sharing meaningful pricing data. In fact, at least 43 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.

We strongly support the Health Care Price Transparency Promotion Act. This 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 often the most valuable information for insured patients. Patients should have all available tools to help them make important choices about their care.

While sharing exact information is challenging because hospital care is individually tailored to each patient's needs, hospitals remain committed to providing meaningful and useful information for consumers. We will continue to work with Congress on ways to share information that's valuable and helpful to patients.

###