

GLVCC Healthcare Committee Recommended Position on Healthcare Price Transparency

The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce's mission is to improve the economy and quality of life in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. To do so, we believe individuals must have access to quality and affordable healthcare. To promote quality and affordable healthcare, The Chamber supports healthcare price transparency. Nearly one-half of adults in the United States has admitted to skipping necessary treatments due to cost, and roughly one in eight have said their health has declined as a result. We believe transparency could result in market forces driving down healthcare costs and lead to better health outcomes overall. However, when a patient researches the price of a service, or uses a tool to compare prices, we believe it is important for the total price the patient is responsible for to be clearly defined and separate from the overall cost of the service provided. Knowing the cost that an individual is responsible for before scheduling an appointment and choosing from different providers based on price would enable them to make the choice that is correct for them. We also believe that outreach to patients is an essential piece of price transparency and health insurance companies and healthcare providers should guide patients to more affordable treatment options. While we recognize that price transparency may only be relevant in certain situations, The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce believes that any policy that may reduce the amount that individuals spend on healthcare will result in a better economy in the Lehigh Valley and across the United States.

APPROVED BY HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE: 3/16/21

APPROVED BY PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE: 3/17/21