Legislative Briefing

OHA Health Policy Action

Your guide to proposed health legislation, what we think about it, and what we're doing about it.

March 2013

H.B. No. 5978; AN ACT PROHIBITING PATIENT INTERVIEWS IN COMMON AREAS OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

What is this bill about?

H.B. 5978 will protect the privacy of patients in hospitals and other health care facilities. As more consumers are projected to enter the healthcare marketplace through the Health Insurance Exchange, it is critical that healthcare providers remain cognizant of the need to protect patient privacy. H.B. 5978 promotes and reinforces staff training in order to keep patient's privacy.

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We recognize the bill is limited in that it does not include other forms of violating patient's privacy, although does address this issue and creates priority of patient privacy.

What are the implications of this bill for healthcare consumer advocacy?

Patient's privacy will be kept honored in hospitals and other health care settings, thus empowering consumers and encouraging the development of trust in the healthcare setting.

Talking Points

1. OHA is aware of this proposed legislation and submitted written public testimony **in support** of this bill.
2. This legislation will protect patient privacy.
3. OHA supports this legislation based on the principles of access to quality healthcare, evidence-based improvements to our healthcare system, and consumer maximization of value for their health insurance premiums.

Please refer all media, agency, and legislator inquiries to Vicki Veltri

OHA represents the collective voice of 3.5 million healthcare consumers. For our state to be competitive, our people must be healthy. Our mission is to • assure managed care consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare • educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health insurance plans • inform legislators of problems consumers face in accessing care and propose solutions to those problems.