

**House Bill 3218**  
House Public Health Committee  
Monday, April 3, 2023

Dear Madam Chair and Committee Members –

The Texas Hospital Association, on behalf of its almost 500 member hospitals and health systems, thanks you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HB 3218, which modifies the requirement to provide a good faith estimate to patients ahead of a nonemergency elective medical service or procedure.

THA appreciates Chair Klick's willingness to discuss our concerns with the proposed legislation and, based on discussions, believes a full compromise will be reached in a committee substitute. THA agrees with HB 3218's intent to improve the patient experience, but did provide proposed edits to strengthen and clarify the bill's language.

Our proposals include edits to:

- clarify that the estimate is for the facility's billed charges (excluding any payment by a health insurance company);
- allow for weekends and holidays in the facility's deadline to provide the estimate, and to allow the estimate in hard or electronic copy;
- clarify that the process intends for a good faith estimate to be provided prior to the ultimate amount billed for payment; and,
- make clear that the penalty for violating these provisions is an inability to collect all amounts above the good faith estimate, rather than the entire amount due for an encounter.

In working with Chair Klick, THA narrowed concerns to these points, which THA believes do not modify the intent of the bill. THA looks forward to continuing to work with Chair Klick and this Committee to finalize the language.