



January 24, 2024

The Honorable Wyman Duggan  
State Representative  
303 House Office Building  
402 S. Monroe St. Tallahassee  
FL 32399-1300

**RE: Support for House Bill 659 – House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee 1/25/24 at 8:00am**

Dear Rep. Duggan:

I am writing on behalf of the Emergency Department Practice Management Association (EDPMA) to express strong support for House Bill 659. This bill is crucial in ensuring that health plans in Florida actively participate in the Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) program, providing consequences for health plans that refuse to comply. Additionally, it establishes a requirement for enrollee health identification cards to clearly indicate if they are part of a state-governed plan.

By requiring health plans to take part in the IDR program, House Bill 659 aims to create a fair and efficient system for resolving disputes between providers and health plans. Far too often, providers find themselves in frustrating situations where they are unable to resolve disputes regarding claims, leading to delayed or denied reimbursement. A reformed IDR program provides a much-needed avenue for resolving these conflicts impartially and efficiently.

The inclusion of consequences for health plans that refuse to participate in the IDR program is essential to ensure compliance. It is crucial that all health plans operating in Florida understand the importance of resolving disputes and upholding transparency and accountability in their operations. By imposing consequences, House Bill 659 will encourage health plans to actively engage in the IDR program and prioritize the well-being of their enrollees.

Furthermore, the requirement to clearly indicate state-governed plans on health identification cards through the inclusion of "FL" on the backside, along with a QR code directing individuals to relevant information, will help enrollees make informed decisions about their healthcare. This feature promotes transparency, providing patients and providers with a quick and easy way to access vital information about their health plan, including coverage, benefits, and rights.

For these reasons, the EDPMA respectfully urges you to support House Bill 659. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to our association.

Sincerely,

*Andrea Brault*

Andrea Brault, MD, MMM, FACEP  
Chair  
Emergency Department Practice Management Association (EDPMA)