STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 12, 2013

The Honorable Andy Biggs
President of the Senate
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1115 (direct pay prices; health care)

Dear President Biggs,

Today, I vetoed Senate Bill 1115, which would have required health care providers, hospitals and other health care facilities to post the direct payment prices charged for common services in a written document or online. I support price and quality of care transparency in the health care sector which will provide useful information to help patients manage their health care needs. Transparency will bring more accountability into the health care delivery system.

I am concerned about the practical and potential legal implications of this bill. Accordingly, I cannot sign it in its current form.

The definition of health care facility is overly broad and includes facilities that do not serve the general public and may not charge a cash price for services. Veterans Administration facilities, health facilities on Arizona's military bases, Indian Health Services hospitals and clinics, tribal owned clinics and the Arizona State Hospital meet the definition of health care facility in SB 1115 but should be exempt from the mandate because they do not serve the general public.

Additionally, the bill contains a number of ambiguous terms and definitions that likely would cause unnecessary litigation and create conflict with both state and federal law. Moreover, the language of the legislation may impede the Arizona Medical Board's ability to effectively investigate complaints and discipline doctors for billing abuses and excessive fees.

These concerns are among the primary reasons I vetoed SB 1115.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Brewer

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: Hon. Andy Tobin
Hon. Nancy Barto

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