

INSTITUTE *of* DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

January 31, 2023

Dr. Duncan Ackerman,

RE: HB 1416 Open Access Healthcare

Institute of Diagnostic Imaging is an Independent Diagnostic Testing Facility (IDTF). Our facility provides MRI, CT, Ultrasound, Mammographic and Radiologic services. We are credentialed with most all insurance companies except for SanfordTru. Although we are credentialed with varying insurance providers that doesn't necessarily mean that our facility is "in-network" with all of them. Which is confusing to the patient/consumer and ultimately ends up being a greater cost to the consumer.

Being an IDTF we set our prices for radiology imaging at a substantially lower cost than hospital-based services. Which is a benefit to all, namely the insurance company and the consumer. I have evidence that hospital-based services charges are over double for the same CPT code. Another benefit to the patient of having open access healthcare is the timeliness of our service. Generally, our facility can get the patient scheduled within 2-3 days, unless the insurance company requires a pre-authorization. The pre-authorization process is the main reason for potential delays in getting expedited care for the patient.

A Patient's Bill of Rights should allow the patient to choose where they would like their imaging services performed. It should not be controlled by the insurance company and/or where their provider tells them where to go.

In addition, an IDTF is required to be accredited by an accredited organization. Most common is the American College of Radiology (ACR). The ACR evaluates equipment and staff to promote high standards in all aspects of practice. ACR keeps practices accountable. However, hospital-based practices **are NOT required** to maintain accreditation.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me. I would be happy to discuss the benefits of having open access to **affordable** healthcare for all patients.

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