Ohio

Ohio has been relatively inactive during the 2017-2018 legislation on healthcare price transparency, cost, or markets. Ohio introduced bills that aimed at lowering prescription drug costs, increasing insurance plan transparency and providing universal healthcare coverage. However, none of these bills had bipartisan support and all failed in committee.

On the price transparency front, in 2015, Ohio enacted the Healthcare Price Transparency Law (HB 52). This law mandates providers to provide patients, before beginning treatment, with a “good faith” estimate of how much non-emergency, elective health care services would cost after accounting for health insurance. However, enforcement of the law was suspended due to legal challenge from health care providers who argued that the law’s requirements are too broad and would delay patient care by requiring physicians to make cost estimates before beginning treatment. The lower court struck down the law and the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed.

Ohio’s Office of Health Transformation has also redesigned its state health care payment system. Its system shows providers how the cost and quality of their care compares to others’ in the state, generating cost savings and improving public health. It analyzes how much it costs a provider to treat an episode of care and to provide high-quality comprehensive primary care.