

**For Immediate Release**

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**FAHP Applauds Members of the Senate Health Policy Committee for  
Advancing Balanced Billing Reform**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – The Florida Association of Health Plans, Inc. (FAHP) today released the following statement, attributable to its President & CEO Audrey Brown, applauding members of the Senate Health Policy Committee for advancing Senate Bill 1442, sponsored by Senator Rene Garcia (R-Hialeah), which would reform the current system of balance billing.

“The current system of balance billing threatens Florida's consumers by putting them on the hook for the retail charges of health care services, even when they did not choose to be seen by an out-of-network provider. This good bill takes the consumer out of any disputes that arise regarding payments and, instead, provides that the health plan and the provider resolve it.

“FAHP also supports utilizing the current, effective HMO dispute resolution statute. This has worked for HMOs for decades and by providing for it in this bill, lawmakers avoid creating two different processes for PPOs and HMOs. It is a simple and effective approach that protects the consumer.

“FAHP and its member plans believe prohibiting the practice of balance billing for PPO policyholders is an important consumer protection and transparency issue, and we would like to thank Senator Garcia for working with all interested parties toward a resolution on behalf of Florida consumers.”

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*The Florida Association of Health Plans, Inc. (FAHP) is the state's trade association representing Florida's health plans. FAHP's mission is to better the health of Florida's citizens by developing meaningful relationships between health plans, providers, government partners and employer groups, as well as focusing on educating policymakers and the public about the benefits health plans provide. For more information on FAHP, please visit [FAHP.net](http://FAHP.net).*