

Federal Trade Commission
Office of the Secretary
Room H-113 (Annex X)
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20580

RE: “Health Care Workshop, Project No. P131207”

The Gary and Mary West Health Policy Center is pleased to submit comments in response to the Federal Trade Commission’s announcement of the public workshop, “Examining Health Care Competition.” We appreciate this opportunity to offer comments and applaud the Commission for exploring current developments related to health care competition, including innovations in healthcare delivery, quality, and price transparency for healthcare services.

Established in 2012, the Washington, D.C.-based West Health Policy Center is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization that provides education, expertise and policy proposals to transform the American healthcare experience. The West Health Policy Center is unique: it is solely funded by the philanthropic Gary and Mary West Foundation, does not join other groups, does not accept outside contributions, does not make political donations, and has no financial interest in the outcome of any policy it explores.

At West Health, our single aim is to make high-quality healthcare more accessible at a lower cost to all Americans. We believe that increased transparency is an indispensable part of that mission. A truly efficient medical marketplace is one that not only promotes price transparency but readily provides information on the capabilities and limitations of healthcare services. In other words, *value* must be part of any transparency discussion.

To inform the Commission’s work as it explores the relationship between transparency of price and quality information and meaningfulness to patients, employers, policymakers, and other decision-makers, we respectfully submit the attached study, “Health Care Price Transparency: Policy Approaches and Estimated Impacts on Spending.” This new study, commissioned by West Health Policy Center, assesses the effects and impacts of targeted policy interventions on a variety of healthcare stakeholders, including projected reductions in health spending that could be achieved.



West Health appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on this important topic and we look forward to working with the Commission to better understand the competitive implications of price transparency as well as the potential impacts on all healthcare market participants.

Sincerely,

Joseph Smith, MD, PhD
Chairman of the Board of Directors
The Gary and Mary West Health Policy Center