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## Gov. Scott: New FHA Website Latest Evidence of Need to Protect Florida Patients from Price Gouging

THE VILLAGES, Fla. – The Florida Hospital Association (FHA) yesterday unveiled a new website that shows how much hospitals in Florida markup their fixed prices for uninsured and out-of-network patients over the actual, negotiated amounts hospitals accept as full payment from commercial insurers. The website shows that virtually all procedures and illnesses have a markup of at least more than double the average payment amount, with some hospitals having markups of more than 10 times.

Governor Rick Scott said, "We need to protect patients from one-sided price fixing by Florida hospitals. Patients should have a place to go when they believe their hospital bills are unconscionably high. That is why we want patients to have the ability to ask for a third-party review of their changes. We must address the high costs hospitals pass on to patients if we are going to make healthcare more affordable and accessible in Florida. That means we must also empower patients through more public information and transparency about hospital spending and pricing. But we must also give patients a place to go when they feel they have unfairly received an outrageously high bill for a hospital service."

In September, Governor Scott announced that he will work with the Legislature to increase transparency for Florida hospitals and empower patients to fight against hospital price gouging. Click **here** to see more about the Governor's proposal.

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