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Good afternoon Chairman Koivisto and committee members. For the record, Debbie Smith, representing Operating Engineers Local 3. I am a benefits representative and work on a daily basis with the participants in our medical plan.

AB 228 will help our participants and is a fair way to treat hospital patients who have no choice in the facility in which they are treated when it is a trauma case.

You are well aware of the complicated nature of medical care in today's world and, unfortunately, it is often the patient who is the victim of designations and contracts and PPO agreements over which he has no control.

This bill will simply give the trauma patient who has insurance the same consideration as those patients who have no insurance. We urge your support of AB228.

Thank you.