

FIX H. 4617

SUPPORT AMENDMENTS #54 AND #91

OPPOSE AMENDMENTS #61 AND #71

END SURPRISE BILLS FOR PATIENTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

We need to protect Massachusetts families

Massachusetts has a strong healthcare system with high levels of insurance coverage, good participation in insurance networks, and strong protections for patients. Still, Massachusetts patients can receive surprise bills for care they thought was covered by insurance. Doctors and patients both want to end surprise bills by ending the surprise insurance gaps that cause them. To protect patients, we need a fair solution that takes patients out of the middle and maintains access to care. Amendments #54 and #91 will help expand patient protections, strengthen access to care, increase transparency and cost predictability, and end surprise bills.

Amendment #54 and Amendment #91 will strengthen access to care increase transparency and keep costs predictable

A fair reimbursement standard will take patients out of the middle, strengthen access to care for patients, and keep costs for services predictable. Amendment #54 and Amendment #91 make changes that will strengthen transparency and patient protections. But Amendments #61 and #71 will make this process less transparent and potentially more costly. Support Amendment #54 and Amendment #91 in order to:

- **Strengthen networks to help patients access the care they need.** Most doctors want to be in network. By creating healthy incentives, H. 4617 can help maintain strong networks in Massachusetts to ensure ongoing access to quality care for patients.
- **Create a fair standard that references a transparent, independent, conflict-free database.** Everyone benefits from using transparent, independent data that cannot be manipulated by insurers, hospitals or doctors.
- **Establish price transparency to support fair negotiations.** Leveraging transparent data from a non-conflicted source strengthens incentives for insurers and providers to negotiate and increases predictability for patients. Without transparency, insurers can set prices out of thin air, with no regard for the cost of services and no accountability.
- **Ensure cost predictability.** Using transparent data also helps keep costs predictable. States leveraging independent data have not seen an increase in fees. Connecticut and New York leverage cost data from the independent database FAIR Health for a reimbursement standard, and have not seen increases in the most common emergency room charges.

Together we can end surprise bills, take patients out of the middle, increase transparency and ensure access to care. Massachusetts deserves a comprehensive, fair solution that benefits patients without increasing costs.



Physicians for Fair Coverage is a non-profit, non-partisan, alliance of physician practices dedicated to improving patient protections, promoting transparency, and ensuring access to care. Our membership of more than 70,000 physicians cares for more than 50 million patients each year in more than 3,000 facilities nationwide.

Endtheinsurancegap.org

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