



Speaker Mike Turzai  
 139 Main Capitol  
 PO Box 202028  
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2028

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Dear Speaker Turzai:

The 20 undersigned organizations represent thousands of patients and consumers in Pennsylvania who face serious, acute, and chronic health conditions. We write today to urge the House of Representatives to take up and pass HB 1862 in order to protect Pennsylvanians from surprise medical bills. This sensible, bipartisan legislation was voted unanimously out of the House Insurance Committee in October of last year, and has since been awaiting action by the full House.

According to a 2018 study, 1 in 3 privately insured adult Pennsylvanians has received a surprise medical bill.<sup>1</sup> Nearly every medical appointment presents an opportunity for a surprise bill: a test performed by an out-of-network lab, a diagnostic image interpreted by an out-of-network analyst, a hospital procedure with an out-of-network provider on the team. Patients with serious or chronic health

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.healthcarevaluehub.org/advocate-resources/publications/many-privately-insured-pennsylvanians-  
 receive-unexpected-medical-bills-fully-one-third-unhappy-resolution-may-not-understand-opt](https://www.healthcarevaluehub.org/advocate-resources/publications/many-privately-insured-pennsylvanians-receive-unexpected-medical-bills-fully-one-third-unhappy-resolution-may-not-understand-opt)

conditions often have even more frequent contact with the health care system than the average consumer, and therefore face even greater risk of receiving surprise bills.

While it is true that surprise bills are not a new problem, the COVID-19 pandemic has added a new urgency to the need for this legislation.

Recent media reports indicate that consumers diagnosed with COVID-19 may face extreme costs because of the nature of their treatment and quarantine. Meanwhile, patients with serious and chronic conditions who routinely require medical treatment to maintain their health may be required to shift their care to different providers and facilities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These shifts, while necessary to contain the virus, may result in out-of-network care – increasing consumers' risk of receiving a surprise bill.

Fear of cost, and subsequent surprise medical bills, should not keep patients and consumers away from care for treatment of COVID-19 or an underlying medical condition. Not only will discouraging people from seeking appropriate care lead to worsening health, it will also perpetuate the spread of the virus and prolong its health and economic impacts. This makes HB 1862 a timely and vital component of Pennsylvania's response to the COVID-19 crisis.

For more information or to discuss further, please contact Steve Butterfield, regional director of government affairs for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, at 207-213-7254 or [steve.butterfield@lls.org](mailto:steve.butterfield@lls.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Kidney Fund  
The American Liver Foundation  
American Lung Association in Pennsylvania  
The Arthritis Foundation  
CancerCare  
Cancer Support Community  
Cancer Support Community of the Greater Lehigh Valley  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Eastern Pennsylvania Hemophilia Foundation  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Immune Deficiency Foundation  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Susan G. Komen  
Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Hemophilia Foundation