



MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA®

July 24, 2019

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
1203 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Aderholt:

On behalf of the undersigned state medical society specialty organizations, we are writing to ask for your support of a fair and independent dispute resolution process (IDR) in regards to “surprise billing” legislation being considered in Congress.

Our organizations feel strongly that any legislative solution should include an IDR process such as that found in H. R. 3502 the “Protecting People from Surprise Medical Bills Act of 2019”.

We are together in our support of efforts to protect patients from unanticipated (surprise) medical bills in cases where a patient reasonably believed that the care they received would be covered by their health insurance but it was not.

Situations in which this may occur include:

1. A patient receives care in an emergency and the facility or physician providing the care is not in the network of the patient’s insurance company; or
2. A patient received a scheduled care from an in-network physician at an in-network facility but other health care providers, whom the patient did not choose, are not in the network.


Patients should not be forced to bear the financial burden of costly medical bills in these situations and there needs to be a fair and transparent way of determining the appropriate reimbursement for the out of network providers.

The solution found in H. R. 3502 provides a proven process to accomplish this goal. This legislation provides for an independent arbitration method similar to one that has been in place in New York since 2015 and has been praised by all parties as being a fair and reasonable process to resolve such disputes.

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
July 24, 2019
Page Two

Consequently, we ask that your support of a solution to the surprise billing problem, include an independent dispute resolution process that has proven to be fair and equitable. With a balanced approach that IDR provides, we stand ready to assist in protecting patients from surprise medical bills.

Sincerely,



Mark Jackson
Executive Director
The Medical Association of the State of Alabama

Undersigned State Medical Society Specialty Organizations:

Alabama Society of Allergy & Immunology
Alabama State Society of Anesthesiologists
Alabama Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Alabama Dermatology Society
Alabama Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians
Alabama Academy of Family Physicians
Nesurosurgical Society of Alabama
Alabama Academy of Ophthalmology
Alabama Orthopaedic Society
Alabama Society of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
Alabama Psychiatric Physicians Association
Alabama Academy of Radiology
Alabama Chapter, American College of Surgeons
Alabama Academy of Neurology