



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NCAHU Supports S. 1895 The Lower Health Care Costs Act

Raleigh, NC – With the healthcare debate raging among 2020 presidential candidates and Members of Congress, it is refreshing to hear there is bipartisan support addressing an issue that is universally opposed by patients and their families — surprise medical billing. It is critical that Congress address this issue in a way that protects consumers and lowers out-of-pocket medical expenses.

We are not discussing a lack of health insurance coverage for a certain procedure. The practice of surprise medical billing is far more malicious. Many out-of-network providers have slapped unfairly expensive bills on patients who never had a chance to see if the service they unknowingly received was covered. Worst of all, these bills are frequently much higher than the accepted market rates for the same services delivered by other health care providers in the area. As such, they are hurting people and businesses throughout the state.

We trust Congress will act on this issue in a way that actually addresses the problem. S. 1895, the Lower Health Care Costs Act, is an excellent solution currently in the U.S. Senate. It would establish a benchmark rate for out-of-network providers based on the local marketplace. This would give peace of mind to families across North Carolina (and nationally) by reining in the practice of surprise medical billing. Hopefully, North Carolina's delegation in the House of Representatives will sponsor and support a similar bill so we can address this problem as soon as possible.

NCAHU is a professional association of health insurance agents and brokers in North Carolina serving the life and health insurance needs of the citizens of North Carolina. For more information visit our website www.ncahu.org

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