



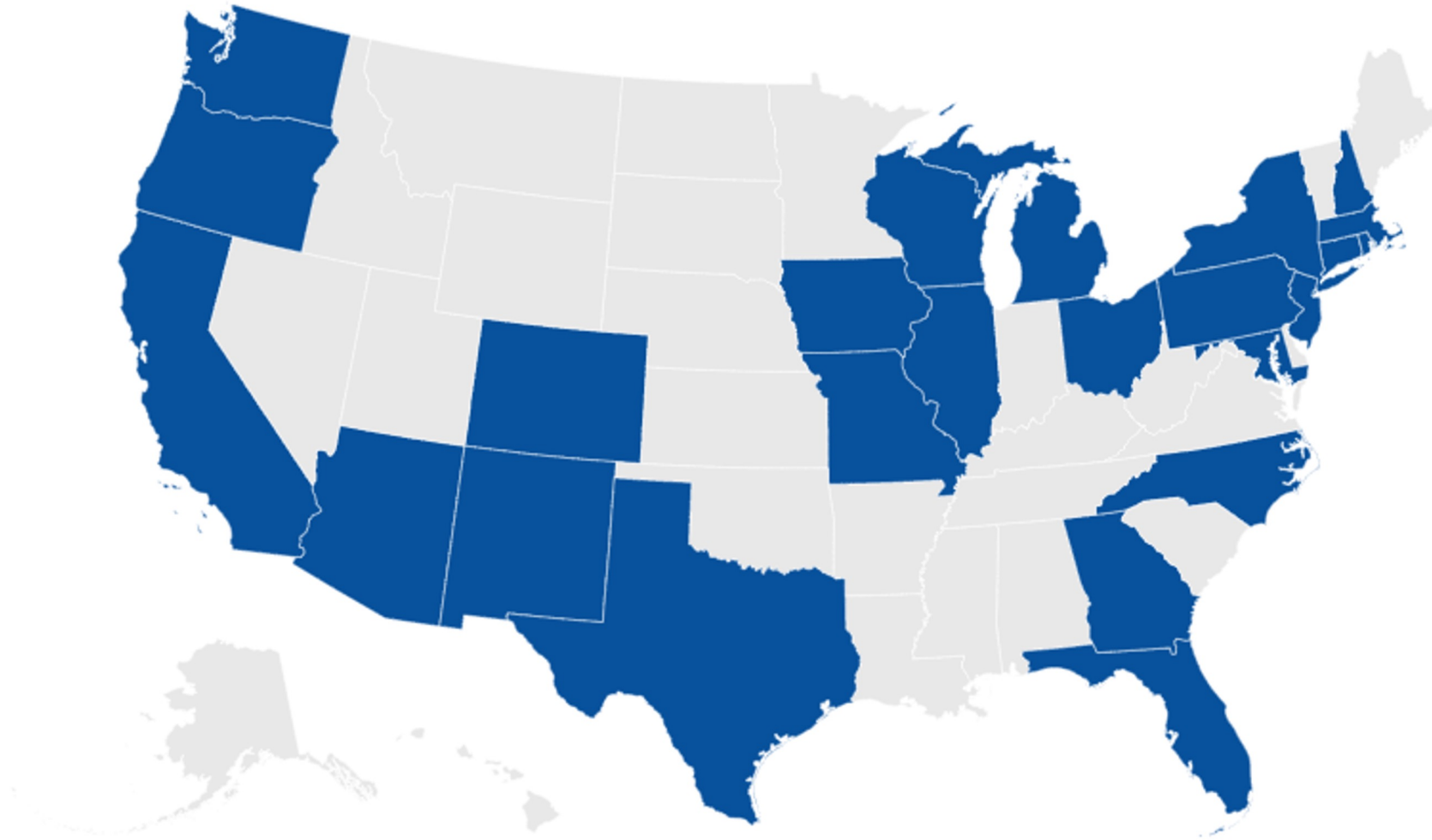
Ground Ambulance & Patient Billing Advisory Committee

Potential Legislative and Regulatory Options – How to
Prevent Balance Billing



Patricia Kelmar, Senior Director, Health Care Campaigns
U.S. PIRG

U.S. PIRG



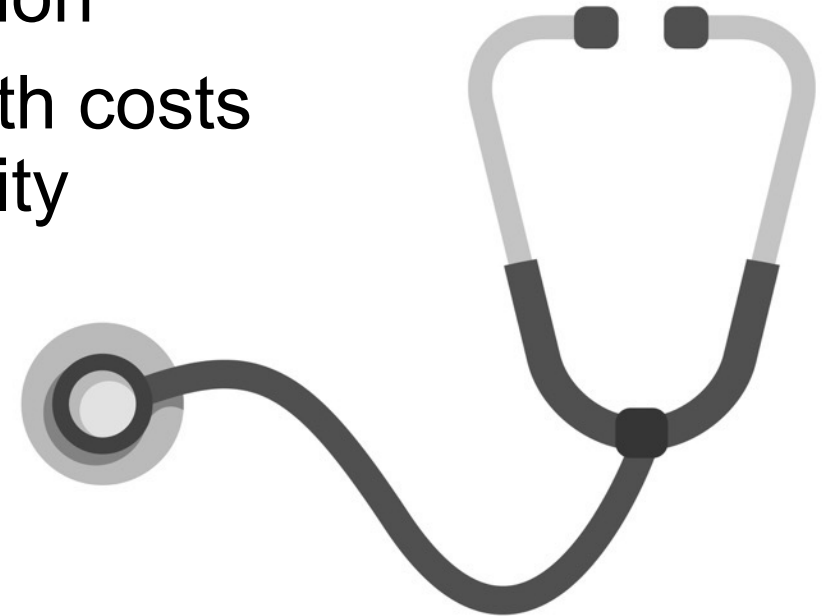
Ambulance “Givens”



- Ambulances save lives
- Every community needs adequate emergency transportation
- Insurance is required to cover emergency services
- Ambulances do not operate in competitive market

Learning from NSA and State Protections

- Allowing consumers to rely on their insurance
- Understanding the pros/cons of arbitration
- Being clear on the goal of keeping health costs down and still having a robust community emergency transportation system



Ban Balance Billing for Ground Ambulances

- No Surprises Act has already prevented 9 million surprise bills in the first 9 months of the law



How to Achieve Fair Payments

- Keeping overall costs down
- Achieving reasonable rates
- Preventing perverse market incentives
- Avoid adding unnecessary costs



Data Collection

- What information do we know?
- What information do we still need?



Impact on Patients: Roger

- Physician in Virginia
- Non-emergency transportation
- Ambulance bill: \$1,447.28
- His share: \$1,446.44

“Emergency: The High Cost of Ambulance Surprise Bills”

<https://bit.ly/PIRGEmergencyReport>

