

Ground Ambulance & Patient Billing Advisory Committee

Balance Billing – Impact on Consumers & Current Consumer Protections

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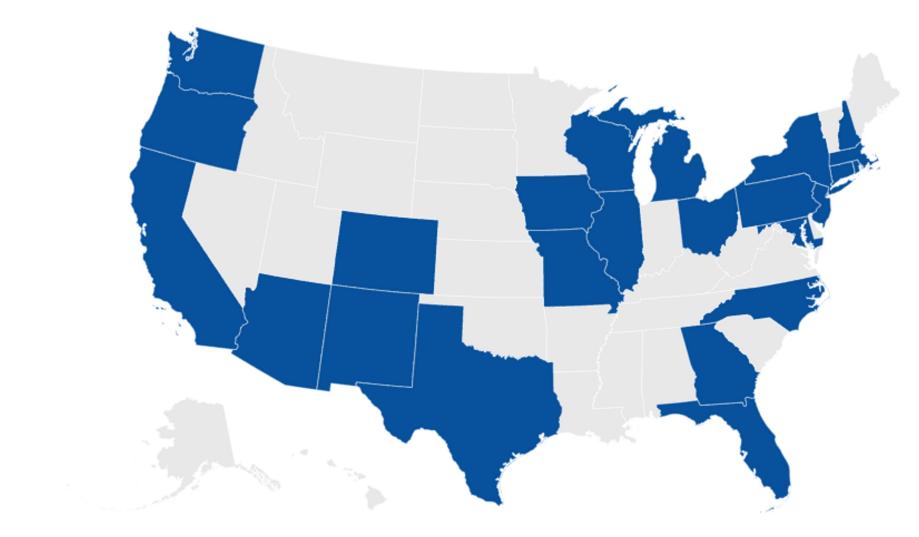


EMERGENCY

South Entrance



U.S. PIRG





Protecting Insured Consumers

- Any solution to surprise billing must address BOTH:
 - An individual patient's costs the surprise balance bill
 - Overall health insurance costs the premium





Patient Story: Caroline

- Indiana mom
- 6-month-old infant son was vomiting
- Transfer to a children's hospital
- 19 miles
- The bill: \$7,075

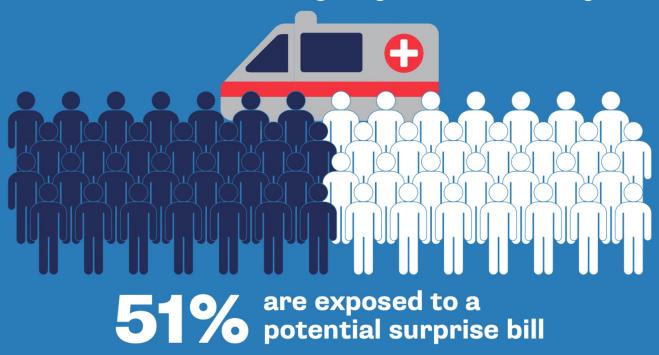




Patients Impacted

3 million

privately insured people transported by ambulance to emergency rooms annually





\$

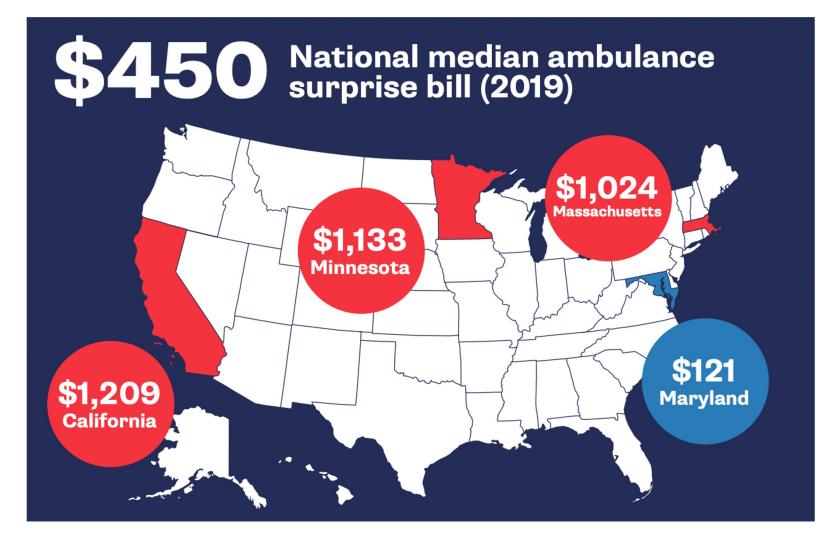
Cost of Surprise Ambulance Bills



Amount spent by patients for ambulance surprise bills annually



Ambulance Bills are Pricey





Rising Charges and Payments

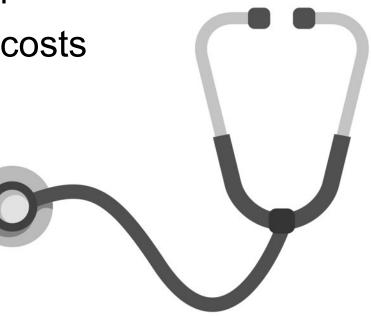


- Providers charged health plans: \$1,300 (2017-2022)
- Average payments by plans increased 56% between 2017 and 2020



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





GAPB Mission

- Improve the disclosure of charges and fees for ground ambulance services
- Better inform consumers of insurance options for such services
- Protect consumers from balance billing

