

AB 1312 (SCHIAVO)

PATIENT DEBT PREVENTION ACT

Requiring hospitals to prescreen patients for financial assistance and **automatically reduce medical bills**, rather than saddling them with debt they can't pay.



CALIFORNIA CAN PROTECT PATIENTS

Health Care Costs Are Too Expensive!

- The high cost of health care makes it hard for Californians to get care when they need it the most.
- Over 50% of Californians who are Black, people who speak Spanish, or low-income experience medical debt.
- In 2023, over a million Californians were unable to pay for basic necessities because of medical debt.
- Hospitals are legally required to offer financial help, but getting support as a patient often means filling out a time-consuming and confusing financial request form that hospitals would then have to approve.

HERE'S HOW AB 1312 WORKS:



CRITICAL INFORMATION



Hospitals will be required to automatically check if you qualify for financial assistance if you are: covered by Medi-Cal or Covered California; uninsured; enrolled in programs like SNAP or WIC; participate in other means-tested programs; are experiencing homelessness; or if you will owe more than \$500 for your visit.



If you qualify, hospitals will be required to automatically apply the financial assistance to your bill and notify you in writing to communicate if you qualify for financial assistance.



1 in 3 Californians have medical debt. If the available financial assistance was applied, patients could avoid being sent to collections and accruing medical debt.



California can do better! States like Oregon, Maryland and Illinois have passed laws to reduce medical debt and increase access to help pay for medical bills.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

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