

AB 1312 (SCHIIVO)

# PATIENT DEBT PREVENTION ACT

Requiring hospitals to screen 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 meet certain criteria such as being uninsured or on a Covered California or Medi-Cal with cost-sharing.

Patients and families enrolled in state programs like SNAP or WIC, or those experiencing homelessness will be automatically eligible for financial assistance.



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.

**Have you or someone you know experienced medical debt?**

**Use your voice to educate legislators!  
Scan the QR code to tell your story!**



## QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

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