September 9, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O St, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1312 (Schiavo) - Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of [Organization Name], I respectfully urge your signature AB 1312 (Schiavo), The Patient Debt Prevention Act. **(Share a short statement about why AB 1312 is important for your organization.)** Medical debt can be prevented in a large number of cases, and AB 1312 will improve upon existing law to ensure hospitals automatically apply financial assistance to an eligible patient’s bill.

More than one in three Californians reported medical debt in 2023. Additionally, more than half of Californians who are Black, speak Spanish, or have low incomes reported medical debt. While financial assistance is available, many patients are unaware, and do not know if they qualify. AB 1312 sets clear standards to screen patients and avoid debt.

Congress’ passage of HR1 will negatively impact California’s communities, especially those of color, and will widen already existing racial disparities in healthcare access and affordability. As a result, more patients will be forced to take on medical debt or will choose between accessing care and going into debt. AB 1312 will ensure that California’s most vulnerable populations do not have to make this choice.

California must be a leader in addressing the persistent medical debt crisis that is expected to worsen. Many hospitals in California, and across the nation have already implemented screening processes to streamline billing processes and help patient’s avoid debt. AB 1312 would codify best practices and will ensure eligible patients receive financial assistance entitled to them by law. This bill will require that all hospitals screen patients for eligibility for hospital financial assistance and make the determination before the first bill.

By signing AB 1312, California could take a step to address the harmful impacts of HR 1 and other federal priorities.

For these reasons, [Organization Name] respectfully requests your signature on AB1312.

[Signature]

CC: Paula Villescaz, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor Newsom