

## Resolution In Support of the “Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act”

WHEREAS, Arizonans are finding it more difficult to access quality healthcare in the State and there exists a growing shortage of healthcare workers in our hospitals, and;

WHEREAS, it is only by working together that we can find solutions to the problems that face healthcare workers, patients, and consumers and we are committed to delivering results that help the greatest number of Arizonans, and;

WHEREAS, this statutory initiative will ban insurers from discriminating against patients based on pre-existing conditions, and;

WHEREAS, this statutory initiative would ban out-of-network bills in emergency medical situations, including bills for ambulance care, and;

WHEREAS, this statutory initiative introduces a 5% wage increase for four years for direct care hospital workers in private hospitals, and;

WHEREAS, in 2019, fifteen hospitals in Arizona received Medicare penalties due to poor patient safety ratings and this statutory initiative would empower the Arizona Department of Health Services to fine hospitals that have above average national rates of hospital-acquired infections, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arizona Democratic Party supports the “Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act” in order to ensure that Arizona’s patients, healthcare workers, and citizens are protected in our State’s healthcare system.

-Lupe Conchas, State Committee Member, Legislative District 30

Citations: <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-health/2019/03/21/fifteen-arizona-hospitals-penalized-medicare-patient-safety/3154205002/>