



March 5, 2019

Representative Susan Lontine
Chair, Colorado House Committee on Health & Insurance
200 E Colfax, RM 307
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chairman Lontine, Vice Chair Caraveo and other members of the Committee:

As a representative of the 28 million small business owners across the nation and the nearly 600,000 small businesses in Colorado, Small Business Majority writes today urging you to support the HB19-1174 concerning out-of-network health care services, or surprise billing. Healthcare costs are routinely cited in our polling as a top concern of small business owners, who routinely pay more for healthcare than their larger counterparts.

Surprise billing occurs when an individual seeks care from an in-network hospital or clinic, but receives care from an out-of-network provider, resulting in a bill reflecting high costs for this coverage. A 2016 report found that almost 7 in 10 people receiving surprise bills for out-of-network costs didn't realize the provider was out-of-network when they received the care.¹ Colorado has laws in place that protect consumers from these scenarios, but research has shown that most Colorado consumers don't understand their rights and end up paying these bills. HB19-1174 will address this issue by requiring that healthcare providers and facilities disclose service performed by out-of-network providers and disclose the claims and payments process. It will also require that consumers receive easy to understand notification of their rights regarding bills from out-of-network providers, and sets "reasonable rates of payment" for these out-of-network providers.

We know from our scientific opinion polling that the cost of healthcare is a major concern to small business owners. Many small business owners and solo-entrepreneurs pay more for coverage than their larger counterparts and simply can't afford unexpected medical expenses that eat into their tight profits and prevent them from investing in their business.

We urge you to enact HB19-1174 in order to bring more transparency and affordability to pricing for healthcare services, benefitting small businesses' bottom lines and helping to control costs in the healthcare system overall.

Thank you.

Hunter Railey, Colorado Director
Small Business Majority

¹ Answering the Thousand-Dollar Debt Question: An Update on State Legislative Activity to Address Surprise Balance Billing." Cousart, NASHP. April 2016.