



2016 PATIENTS' RIGHTS LEGISLATION

Alongside our consumer advocacy on a range of [2016 health policy legislation](#), and beyond our ongoing work to #Health4All, Health Access California is sponsoring a package of key bills to increase transparency and protect patient rights. These bills will:

- **Help Prevent Unfair & Unreasonable Bills, Premiums, and Cost-Sharing**
- **Inform Consumers of Their Rights and Options**
- **Increase Transparency to Address the Rising Cost of Care**

Preventing Surprise Bills: [AB 72](#) (Bonta/Bonilla/Dahle/Gonzalez/Maienschein/Wood): Ensures that if consumers do the right thing by visiting in-network hospitals or facilities, they will only have to pay in-network charges and co-pays for all the providers they encounter during their visit—not surprise out-of-network bills of hundreds or thousands of dollars. The total amount of cost-sharing will also count toward patient's out-of-pocket maximum. Co-sponsored by the California Labor Federation. See [fact sheet](#).

Preventing Mid-Year Cost-Sharing Increases: [SB 923](#) (Hernandez): Prevents plans from changing any cost-sharing requirements during the plan year or policy year, except when required by a change in state or federal law. See [fact sheet](#).

Unreasonable Premium Increase Notice: [SB 908](#) (Hernandez): Requires individuals and small business owners to be notified if regulators have found the premium for a plan they choose is “unreasonable” or “unjustified” and be given an open enrollment period to find another plan. See [fact sheet](#).

Prescription Drug Price Advance Notice: [SB 1010](#) (Hernandez): Adds detailed, publicly available information on prescription drug costs to existing health plan rate review. Also provides notice of increases in prescription drug costs to health plans and state purchasers, including CalPERS, Medi-Cal, and Corrections. Co-sponsored by the California Labor Federation. See [fact sheet](#).

Patients' Right to Timely Care and Language Access: [SB 1135](#) (Monning): Requires health plans and insurers to notify consumers and health care providers about patients' right to timely care and language assistance. See [fact sheet](#).