



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, Santiago, & 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." The notice must be given enough ahead of the open enrollment period to find another plan. 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](#).