

# OPPOSE HB 369

## REP. TALBOT

### *BALANCED BILLING*

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#### **WHAT THIS LEGISLATION DOES:**

**HB 369** establishes a **MANDATORY MEDIATION** process available to the enrollee who receives an invoice and is not in contract with the healthcare provider in the event the unpaid portion of the invoice is over \$500.

Requires a disclosure upon the enrollee's request of a provider estimate of the patient's out-of-pocket cost, which requires information unknown to the provider.

- **THREATENS** to increase an already problematic access to health care concern.
- **CREATES** increased administrative burdens for ALL healthcare providers attempting to secure payment for out-of-network services.

#### **WHY SHOULD I OPPOSE HB 369?**

Health plans being able to pay whatever they want for healthcare services would result in no incentive for plans to negotiate or even make an effort to arrange for in-network contracts with facility-based providers and puts the emergency care safety net, AND the plan's enrollees, at risk for inadequate coverage, especially by on-call specialists who may abandon on-call Emergency Department rosters.

HB 369 violates principles of a competitive free market by arming plans with even greater market power. This process will only increase the already significant market power enjoyed by the plans as they will not need to enter into good faith negotiations with physicians, knowing that in the end, non-contracted physicians must accept low payment levels.

**SUPPORT CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS OF PHYSICIANS AND**

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