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**September 1, 2016**

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## **CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION WOULD PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLS**

(Sacramento, CA) – The California Legislature has approved AB 72, legislation that will provide residents with strong new protection against surprise out-of-network medical bills starting next July.

The measure mandates that patients who received care from in-network facilities would have to pay only in-network cost sharing. This change would impact only non-emergency care, since emergency physicians in California already are barred from balance billing patients.

“CAHU has been a long-time supporter of legislation that would protect our individual/family and employer group clients from financial hardship due to medical care received by non-participating providers, within an in-network hospital or facility.” Richard P Coburn, CLU, MHP, president of the California Association of Health Underwriters said.

Gov. Jerry Brown (D) is expected to sign the bill, which some say could spur other states to take similar action.

The California Association of Health Underwriters members are licensed health insurance agents. They provide reliable insurance advice, act as the consumer's advocate when dealing with carriers and provide a number of essential services relating to the individual and group insurance coverage, and obligations post-enrollment. Members also act as a trusted and effective marketing and distribution channel for health insurance information for all consumers and potential consumers of health care insurance coverage.

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