

Oregon Division of Financial Regulation
Department of Consumer and Business Services
350 Winter St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
Attn: Lisa Emerson

Subject: Comments on Ground Ambulance Balance Billing, House Bill 3243

Dear Ms. Emerson

We appreciate this opportunity to share our thoughts regarding the implementation of HB 3243.

We were supporters of HB 3243 because it is an important step towards protecting consumers from surprise bills. The health care billing system is complex and consumers struggle to understand what health care may cost in advance. This law makes bills for necessary services like emergency ambulance rides more understandable, predictable, and low-cost and is an important part of providing high value health care to Oregonians.

We believe that, in order to make sure that consumers are treated fairly, the 30-business day period for the reimbursement of excess charges in the proposed rule is the very maximum appropriate time. Ideally it would be 30 calendar days. Anything beyond this proposed deadline would likely harm consumers. Many people already struggle to make ends meet, and waiting months is much too long without the hundreds or even thousands of dollars they are entitled to save under HB 3243. We believe that the original 30-day reimbursement period is necessary to protect those who are illegally overcharged.

Thank you for considering our comments. We greatly appreciate the work the DCBS is doing to implement HB 3243.

Sincerely,

OSPIRG
Blood Cancer United (formerly The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society)
SEIU Oregon State Council
Voices of Health Care Action