



# MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

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September 23, 2024

Representative Aaron M. Michlewitz  
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 243  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Michlewitz:

I write today on behalf of the over 24,000 members of Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) to urgently request that the House support and pass a measure to further delay certain notice and disclosure requirements contained in the Patients First Act (Chapter 260 of the Acts of 2020) until January 1, 2027.

The state provisions at hand aim to empower patients with timely notice and cost disclosures, a goal that is largely achieved through the federal No Surprises Act (NSA), in effect since January 1, 2022. The overlap between state and federal laws, if implemented, will create significant challenges and unnecessary administrative burden for physicians striving in good faith to comply with both laws simultaneously. This is particularly pressing given the current challenges facing physician practices and health systems, especially as hospital systems and community providers deal with the fallout of the Steward crisis.

Further delaying the state provisions would alleviate these burdens, greatly benefiting both providers and patients by eliminating unnecessary administrative redundancy and streamlining the disclosure of essential information for patients. Furthermore, it would allow additional time for the finalization of anticipated federal rulemaking, which will inform the path toward a substantive reconciliation of the state and federal laws. In the interim, the NSA will continue to protect patients from surprise medical bills and uphold the patient protections consistent with those in C. 260.

We appreciate your immediate consideration of this matter and hope to resolve it swiftly to prevent an administrative crisis for physicians and patients.

Sincerely,

Hugh M. Taylor, MD

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