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March 28, 2017

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Sen. Kelly Hancock Statement on Senate Passage of SB 507

In win for health care consumers, balance billing mediation expansion passes Texas Senate

AUSTIN - Senator Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) today released the following statement regarding Senate passage of Senate Bill 507 (85R):

"In 2009, the Texas Legislature established a mediation process for Texans who get hit with surprise, bank-breaking medical bills they thought would be covered by health insurance.

"As health care consumers have learned about the availability of mediation, we've seen that it's an extremely effective tool. In fact, according to data from the Texas Department of Insurance, mediation has saved Texas patients more than \$5.5 million in balance billing just since 2015.

"Today, with the Senate's passage of SB 507, we're one step closer to expanding mediation protections to more Texas patients. This legislation would allow mediation of balance bills from all types of out-of-network providers treating patients at in-network hospitals and other facilities, including the booming industry of freestanding emergency rooms. I'm confident our colleagues in the House will recognize the value of this legislation, and hope to see it become law this year."

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Sen. Hancock represents [District 9](#), which includes portions of Dallas and Tarrant Counties. He currently serves as Chairman of the Texas Senate Committee on Business & Commerce.