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## Sen. Kelly Hancock Statement on President Trump's Call for Surprise Medical Billing Protections

AUSTIN, TX - Sen. Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) today issued the following statement regarding President Trump's call for Congress to tackle surprise medical billing at the national level:

"Surprise billing mediation has saved Texas patients nearly \$40 million in out-of-pocket health care costs since we first passed legislation establishing the assistance program. But no patient should be put in the middle of a payment fight between insurance companies and providers in the first place, especially in emergencies and other situations where the patient has absolutely no choice what facility they go to or what doctor they see.

"That's why we have landmark legislation moving through the Texas Legislature this session that would completely eliminate surprise medical bills for patients with state-regulated insurance plans. Of course, federally-regulated plans are also a significant portion of the Texas market, so I couldn't be more glad to see the Administration is prepared to tackle this issue on a federal level. I emphatically add my voice and experience with this issue to President Trump's call for Congress to protect patients from surprise medical bills. In the meantime, we're also pushing legislation this session that would allow federally-regulated plans to opt into Texas' surprise billing reforms."

Hancock has led the fight for surprise billing reform for a decade, first establishing a Texas Department of Insurance surprise bill mediation program in 2009. For additional legislative history on this issue, please visit: <https://senate.texas.gov/members/d09/press/en/a20190416a.pdf>.

To view Hancock's recent press conferences on surprise billing reforms in Texas, follow the links below.

- Feb. 28, 2019 - SB 1264 Filing Announcement:  
[http://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip\\_id=13872](http://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=13872)  
*\*Note: Drew Calver, a Texas teacher hit with a \$100 thousand-plus surprise medical bill, attended this February press conference and stood with President Trump during today's announcement.*
- April 1, 2019 - SB 1264 Announcement on Bipartisan, Bicameral Deal:  
[http://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip\\_id=14081](http://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=14081)

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