

Protect wages from Medical Debt

Protect Washington families from being trapped by medical debt and vote 'yes' on SB 6105.

Unfair collections practices hurt patients

1 in 5 Washingtonians reported they or a family member had outstanding medical bills. Most had debt between \$1,000 and \$2,499.

1 in 3 experienced financial burdens due to medical bills. For example, difficulty affording necessities like food, heat, or housing. Medical debt is often cited as one of the primary reasons for families who file for bankruptcy.

Even with insurance, patients often struggle to afford medical bills. **In fact, 1 in 4 reported incurring medical debt because their insurance plan did not cover the service.**

Wage garnishment is immediately destabilizing. The loss of a paycheck means affording housing, food, or utilities may become a reality.

Patients usually cannot shop or refuse care in emergencies. Medical debt often includes errors and charges the patient isn't responsible for.

Garnishing wages to collect medical debt is predatory.

SB 6105 (Lias) protects \$1000 of weekly wages from garnishment for medical debt - so that families can pay their rent, buy food, or pay their medical debt.

“

I have honestly a well-paying job, and great insurance and it's still very challenging. I've always paid all my debts and that's a hard thing for me to have to do but these things get astronomical fast. It gets really hard

– Jeremy, Spokane, WA

Unfortunately, Jeremy's story isn't unique.

Vote YES on SB 6105

to shield patients from the negative impacts of medical debt so they can focus on what's most important – their health.

For more information, please contact

Adam Zarrin

Adam.Zarrin@BloodCancerUnited.org | 720.245.728

Kelly Hall

kellyhall.waypoint@gmail.com | 317.908.4716

Protect wages from Medical Debt

Protect Washington families from being trapped by medical debt and vote 'yes' on SB 6105.

Unfair collections practices hurt patients

1 in 5 Washingtonians reported they or a family member had outstanding medical bills. Most had debt between \$1,000 and \$2,499.

1 in 3 experienced financial burdens due to medical bills. For example, difficulty affording necessities like food, heat, or housing. Medical debt is often cited as one of the primary reasons for families who file for bankruptcy.

Even with insurance, patients often struggle to afford medical bills. **In fact, 1 in 4 reported incurring medical debt because their insurance plan did not cover the service.**

Wage garnishment is immediately destabilizing. The loss of a paycheck means affording housing, food, or utilities may become a reality.

Patients usually cannot shop or refuse care in emergencies. Medical debt often includes errors and charges the patient isn't responsible for.

Supporters

American Cancer Society,
Cancer Action Network
ALS Association
Blood Cancer United
Columbia Legal Services
Economic Opportunity
Institute
Northwest Consumer Law
Center
Northwest Health Law
Advocates
Patient Coalition of
Washington
Statewide Poverty Action
Network

Garnishing wages to collect medical debt is predatory.

SB 6105 (Lias) protects \$1000 of weekly wages from garnishment for medical debt - so that families can pay their rent, buy food, or pay their medical debt.

For more information, please contact

Adam Zarrin

Adam.Zarrin@BloodCancerUnited.org | 720.245.728

Kelly Hall

kellyhall.waypoint@gmail.com | 317.908.4716