

# Stop interest on Medical Debt

**Protect Washington families from being trapped by medical debt and vote 'yes' on SB 5993.**

## 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.

When interest accrues on medical debt, the debt begins to escalate out of control, for **an event that people did not plan for.** 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.**

**4 in 5 Americans** – 86% of Democrats, 76% of Independents, and 78% of Republicans – **want their elected officials to reduce healthcare costs.**

## Supporters

American Cancer Society,  
Cancer Action Network

ALS Association

Blood Cancer United

Columbia Legal Services

Economic Opportunity  
Institute

National Multiple Sclerosis  
Society

Northwest Consumer Law  
Center

Northwest Health Law  
Advocates

Patient Coalition of  
Washington

Statewide Poverty Action  
Network

Susan G. Komen

**Medical debt is unlike other types of debt. Charging interest does not help patients pay back their debt.**

**SB 5993 (Alvarado) protects patients from spiraling medical debt interest. The bill:**

- Stops interest from accruing on medical debt.
- Reduces the amount of time debt collectors can file a judgment against a patient from 20 years to 6 years.

For more information, please contact

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