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Sen. Kelly Hancock Statement on Committee Passage of Landmark Surprise Medical Bill Legislation

AUSTIN, TX - Sen. Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) today issued the following statement following the 7-2 Business and Commerce Committee vote in favor of SB 1264, landmark legislation that prohibits surprise medical billing of consumers:

"Thousands of Texans receive shocking, and frankly unreasonable, medical bills every year after going through a medical emergency. These bills can also show up after receiving out-of-network care at an in-network hospital or other facility, something the patient had no way to know about beforehand or prevent. In such a stressful situation, unexpected financial stress is the very last thing they need.

"This legislation is a bipartisan, bicameral effort to put patients first. We're determined to protect Texas patients from contentious, after-care disputes between insurance companies and providers. The health care system is convoluted and has plenty of faults, but this is one thing that's in our power to fix at the state level, and we need to fix it now."

SB 1264 applies to all state-regulated insurance plans, and Hancock has filed additional legislation, SB 1530, that would allow federally-regulated plans to opt into the state's patient protections while this issue continues to be discussed and debated in Washington, D.C.

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 background, please visit: <https://senate.texas.gov/members/d09/press/en/a20190401a.pdf>.

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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 and Vice Chair of the Texas Senate Transportation Committee.