

I wholeheartedly support this bill and urge you to do the same. I am a healthcare professional with 7 years of experience directly working with patients as a community resource navigator and advocate. I have worked in emergency rooms, primary care practices, and in a healthcare startup. Our system is broken. A boss I once had used the term "logistical suffering" to describe the multitude of institutional barriers that most of us face in accessing care. These barriers range from lack of interpretation (a right) to fear and anxiety produced by the impossible-to-understand constellation of costs associated with care. Insurance was among the first questions that I asked patients and among the first questions they asked me. Cost and all the concomitant feelings and decisions around cost (how will I pay for this, what bill will I skip to pay for this copay, why is this so unfair) weighed on patients and providers. At every turn, patients and providers are reminded of costs, and asked to weigh financial decisions against the care they and their relatives need to survive and live well. Anyone looking critically at this system and saying that it works is lying to themselves, or benefitting financially from the system. We cannot continue to operate as though this is the only way. It is not. Other nations have solved this problem. Costs are astronomical because we do not adequately regulate medical device, technology, and pharmaceutical companies. Administrative costs accrue in a disjointed system. Simplifying healthcare is the first, crucial step in cutting these costs and reducing the heartache. Please pass this bill to begin to shift the tide and fix this profoundly broken system. No one should die because of a complex healthcare system, and yet people do. Pass the bill, start the fight to save us from this system.