

Dear Senator Sears and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Blue Cross strongly supports the concept of S.79 prohibiting hospital liens, especially for patients who have government or commercial health insurance coverage. Section 1(b) We are concerned about the possibility for these nefarious hospital lien practices (outlined in the New York Times article below) in Vermont.

How Rich Hospitals Profit From Patients in Car Crashes

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/01/upshot/rich-hospitals-profit-poor.html>

The Committee must clearly recognize that allowing hospitals to take 25% for uninsured patients is a significant increase over the \$500 cap currently in statute. The exclusion for payers that do not have a contract with the hospital is also a potential expansion of the hospital's ability to collect and could provide an incentive for hospitals not to contract with payers.

Protecting patients and their families who believe that their health insurance coverage protects them from financial catastrophe due to enormous medical bills is our top priority.

Thank you, Sara

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