



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN

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OF

A.264B – Cahill / S.3171A – Krueger

The CSEA supports the passage of this legislation.

This bill amends sections 604, 605, and 608 of the financial services law to subject hospital charges for emergency services to dispute resolution procedures.

This bill is critically important to protect New Yorkers against excessive emergency charges.

Currently, excessive out of network disputes over emergency room bills by physicians are subject to the Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) process to determine whether there is a gross disparity between the physician charges and a number of commonly used reimbursement benchmarks. This legislation would extend current law to also apply IDR to emergency hospital services.

By subjecting excessive emergency service bills by “out of network” hospitals to IDR, this legislation would help reduce health care costs, encourage hospitals and health plans to agree to participating provider contracts, and protect patients who are caught in the middle of disputes between hospitals and health plans.

This legislation would go a long way towards reigning in excessive health care costs and protecting patients.

On behalf of more than 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees across New York State, CSEA urges the passage of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Turner
Director