



December 17, 2020

Dear Senator Brown:

The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), founded in 1824, is the region's professional medical association. We are a non-profit 501(c)6 representing physicians and medical students from all of the contiguous counties in Northern Ohio.

The mission of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio is to support physicians in being strong advocates for all patients and promote the practice of the highest quality of medicine. The AMCNO stands in opposition of the "No Surprises Act."

At the AMCNO we believe patients need to be kept out of the middle of disputes between physicians and insurers. In accordance with federal law, hospital emergency departments cannot turn away any patient who walks through our door, or discuss potential costs of insurance details until patients are screened and stabilized. The care of our patients is our primary concern, and patients should not have to second guess needed care for fear of a surprise bill.

The AMCNO strongly supports protecting patients from the financial impact of surprise medical bills that arises when patients reasonably believe that the care they received would be covered by their health insurer. Unfortunately, this legislation leaves many questions unanswered, including concerns that it could lead to drastic reductions to in-network payments.

We also question the timing of this rushed legislation. As our members are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, and suffering historic financial losses, it is not the right time to rush through legislation which requires thorough conversation and analysis with stakeholders.

We remain committed to working with you and your colleagues to address this important issue, and ask that you oppose the "No Surprises Act."

Sincerely,

Jen Johns, MPH
Executive Director

Thomas Collins, MD
President

The Voice of Physicians in Northern Ohio