**INCLUDES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES TO BALANCE BILLING PROTECTION ACT OF WASHINGTON STATE**

HB1688 aligns the 2019 Washington State Balance Billing law with the 2021 Federal No Surprise Billing Act and adds mental health emergency services to the Balance Billing Protections Act (concerning private insurance) if an individual seeks emergency behavioral health services outside of their network (or health plan).

**WHY IS THIS BILL IMPORTANT TO NAMI WASHINGTON MEMBERS?**

- Expands out-of-network coverage to locations that provide behavioral health emergency services such as triage facilities and crisis stabilization units.
- Prohibits surprise billing if an individual seeks out-of-network emergency services, including urgent behavioral health care, and post stabilization services at an emergency service facility.

**WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?**

- Adds out-of-network coverage of behavioral health emergency services at crisis stabilization units, evaluation and treatment facilities, certified outpatient crisis services, triage facilities, certified agencies providing managed or monitored withdrawal management services, and any behavioral health administrative services organizations with a mobile rapid response crisis team.
- Expands the definition of emergency coverage to include post stabilization services and air ambulance services.
- Prohibits insurance companies or providers from asking consumers if they want to waive their No Surprise Billing protections.


**CONTACT:**

- MELANIE SMITH, LOBBYIST, SMITH.MELANIEJ@GMAIL.COM
- DEBBIE CARLSEN, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY, DCARLSEN@NAMIWA.ORG