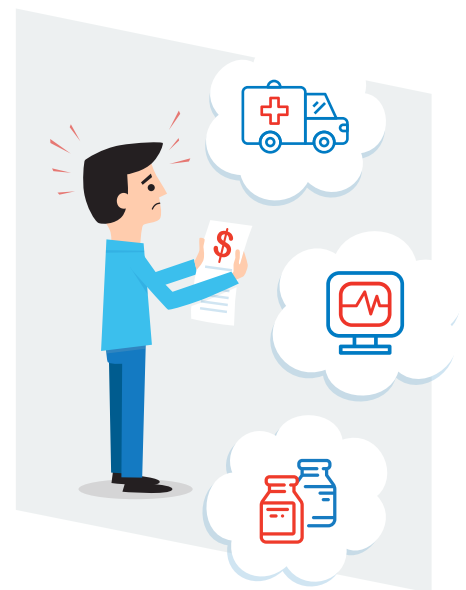


Texas hospitals support **Senate Bill 486/House Bill 1436** by Sen. Charles Schwertner and Rep. Eddie Lucio, III.

SB 486/HB 1436 would **protect consumers by ensuring that health plans honor the provider networks they advertised to their health plan enrollees for the duration of the plan year.**

Patients often select health insurance plans based on the network of health care providers they see and whether their doctors are in that network. Changing the network midstream creates confusion and renders provider directories inaccurate and unreliable. Patients—and sometimes providers—are unaware that health plans have removed certain providers from their networks. **Those changes can lead to surprise medical bills for patients who unknowingly receive services from providers that have been removed from their plan’s network.**



### SB 486 / HB 1436 would:



- Help protect patients from surprise medical bills.
- Ensure patients can continue seeing their doctor.
- Prevent health insurance plans from narrowing networks after a patient has enrolled in the health insurance plan.
- Preserve network adequacy.
- Help ensure that enrollees pay in-network rates for care they receive.
- Help ensure providers are paid in-network rates for services they deliver.



To maintain fairness, the legislation’s protections would not apply if a provider unilaterally chose to leave the network or if the provider’s license has been revoked, suspended or expired.