

Balance billing legislation: H.R. 4736

- Rep. Tom Feeney (R-FL) has introduced H.R. 4736, which would:
 - Allow nonparticipating physicians to balance bill patients under the Medicare program through removal of the current 115 percent limiting charge for nonparticipating physicians, upon date of enactment of H.R. 4736
 - Preempt state laws that prohibit balance billing
- Balance billing provides a means to bridge the gap between inadequate Medicare payment levels and actual increases in medical practice costs.
- Balance billing can help preserve seniors' access to care by allowing more physicians to continue to treat Medicare patients.
- Under current Medicare law, nonparticipating Medicare physicians are paid rates that are 5 percent less than participating physicians, and the amount that nonparticipating physicians can balance bill Medicare beneficiaries is limited to 15 percent above these lower payment rates.
- There is no other professional service for which individuals are prohibited from paying extra funds out of their own resources if they wish to and can afford it.
- Some states have statutes that prohibit physicians from balance billing patients in certain contexts. The Feeney bill would preempt these state laws.

**Urge your representative to cosponsor
Rep. Feeney's bill: H.R. 4736.**

