

Ramiro Silva
754 McKinney
Othello, WA 99344

Re: Notice of Charity Care Availability - HB 1359 & SB 5231

Dear Washington State Legislature:

Please support HB 1359 and SB 5231. I am 58 years of age, speak Spanish, and have been unable to work for several years due to injury.

My doctor sent me to Othello Hospital for a CT-scan in September when I had a terrible pain and blood in my urine. My daughter told the hospital I have no income and no insurance, and requested Charity Care. The Hospital Said I had to pay \$560 cash up front and pay the remainder in \$50 installments each month. The final bill was \$2,780.

I asked the hospital for a Charity Care application after the procedure. Othello Hospital refused until I explained how I could survive on no income. When I explained my children provide food and other help, Othello Hospital said I could not have a Charity Care application unless and until I returned with my 23-year-old son's 2016 federal income tax return showing that I was his legal dependent for tax purposes. I am not. I am a disabled person whose children provide the small things necessary to survive. I believe that I meet all of the requirements to receive charity care, but was repeatedly discouraged from receiving this critical help from the hospital.

Hospitals should give Charity Care notice in English and Spanish so people like me know they can apply, and aren't discouraged by having to pay deposits and not being given a Charity Care application after repeatedly requests. Please support HB 1359 and SB 5231.

Thank you,

Ramiro Silva