

Matt Hunt
516 Ross Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801

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

Dear Washington State Legislature:

Please support HB 1359 and SB 5231. I am 35 years of age and have kidney stones repeatedly that require surgery to remove. My wife and I have two children. I lost my housekeeping job last August when we could not afford child care and have been unemployed ever since.

One time the clinic where my doctor works helped me complete an application for compassionate care, and I received a substantial discount on the small bill. But no one at the hospital discussed charity care with me, not even when I explained (for several surgeries) that I had no insurance and would not be able to pay their bills. In the meantime, my hospital bill increased from \$31,000 to \$52,000 and now to \$85,000 when I was eligible for charity care.

My family has been through very rough times as a result of my medical problems, being sued by the hospital's collection agency, my wife's wages being garnished, and both of us losing our jobs. There have been times when we were both out of work and homeless. The four of us slept in a portion of my wife's foster-sister's unheated garage in December and into January this year.

Hospitals and their collection agencies should make the availability of Charity Care known by giving notice verbally and in writing so people like me understand they can apply, and aren't discouraged by not being given a Charity Care application when there is an obvious need for it. Please support HB 1359 and SB 5231.

Thank you,

Matt Hunt