



## REPRESENTATIVE ZACK HUDGINS

11TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

- **Chair** - Innovation, Technology and Economic Development Committee
- **Member** - Appropriations, State Government & Tribal Relations Committees

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Zack HUDGINS**

D-11<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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communities



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ON THE ISSUES

D-11th

## CASCADE CARE

Washington's working families deserve health care they can count on and afford. This session, we established Cascade Care the nation's first public health care option. Cascade Care offers middle class families affordable health care on the individual market. Plans are available to any Washingtonian who is not covered by an employer-sponsored health plan. Those who are covered by an employer's health plan, Medicare or Apple Care will not be affected. **(Senate Bill 5526)**

## LONG-TERM CARE TRUST ACT

Families all over Washington struggle with long-term care for sick and aging family members. To get ready for the impending "age wave" and the needs of the disability community, we passed the Long-Term Care Trust Act. This first in the nation insurance program covers a broad range of services, including in-home care, home modifications, meal delivery and assisted living. Benefits will be available in 2025. **(House Bill 1087)**

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Let me know  
what you think.  
1-800-562-6000

## MEDICAL DEBT PREVENTION

Medical debt is the number one cause of bankruptcy, with one out of ten Washingtonians having a medical debt in collections. This session, we passed legislation to cap interest that accrues before a patient ever sees a bill. The new law also prohibits the sale or assignment of debt to a collection agency until 120 days after the initial bill statement is sent to a patient. **(House Bill 1531)**

## PRESCRIPTION DRUG TRANSPARENCY

It's hard to afford needed prescription drugs when prices fluctuate for unknown reasons. Going forward, certain drug pricing data must be reported to the Health Care Authority (HCA). This data will allow our state to push for price transparency and drive down prescription drug costs. **(House Bill 1224)**

## ENDING "SURPRISE" BILLING

Balance billing, also known as "surprise billing", is when patients are billed by an out-of-network provider for the difference between what their insurer reimbursed and what the provider charges. We passed legislation to prevent surprise billing for emergency services and non-emergency services like labs and anesthesiology. **(House Bill 1065)**

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