

Justice for Breakfast
Patients Over Profits: Ending the Medical Debt Crisis in Maryland
December 6, 2023

MEDICAL DEBT REPORTS & RESEARCH

[In Sheep's Clothing: United States' Poorly Regulated Nonprofit Hospitals Undermine Health Care Access](#), *Human Rights Watch* (June 2023).

[Diagnosis: Debt](#) (investigative series), *KFF Health News* (June 2022–ongoing).

[Health Care Debt In The U.S.: The Broad Consequences Of Medical And Dental Bills](#), Kaiser Family Foundation (June 2022).

[The Racial Implications of Medical Debt: How Moving Toward Universal Health Care and Other Reforms Can Address Them](#), *The Brookings Institution* (October 2021).

[Analysis of the Impact of Hospital Financial Assistance Policy Options on Uncompensated Care and Costs to Payers](#), *Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission* (February 2021).

This legislatively-mandated study served as the catalyst for legislation in 2022 and 2023 (now law). Among other findings, HSCRC found Maryland hospitals collected roughly \$60 million in payments in both 2017 and 2018 from patients who were eligible for free care and should never have been charged.

[Preying on Patients: Maryland's Not-for-Profit Hospitals and Medical Debt Lawsuits](#), *National Nurses United* (February 2020).

Groundbreaking study by National Nurses United that analyzed the impact of medical debt lawsuits filed against patients by Maryland's not-for-profit hospitals from 2009-2018.

MEDICAL DEBT IN MARYLAND

Meredith Cohn and Ryan Little, [Maryland hospitals stopped suing patients with unpaid bills. Will they start again?](#), *The Baltimore Banner* (December 2023).

[Medical Debt Policy Scorecard](#), *Innovation for Justice* (last accessed December 2023).

A Medical Debt Policy Scorecard developed by Innovation for Justice estimates that Maryland has the strongest medical debt consumer protection policies in the country.



END MEDICAL DEBT MARYLAND

End Medical Debt Maryland is a statewide coalition of nearly 70 organizations and community members working together to pass comprehensive medical billing reform, educate Marylanders on their rights as patients, and eliminate barriers to healthcare.

William J. Ford, [Advocates rally for bills that would expand access to health care](#), *Maryland Matters* (March 2023).

Kim Dacey, [Rally held in Annapolis to End Crippling Medical Debt](#), *WBAL-TV 11* (March 2023).

[Case Study: State Campaign to Protect Marylanders from Medical Debt](#), *Community Catalyst* (December 2021).

Bruce DePuyt, [Consumer Groups Say Medical Debt Bill Is a First Step, But More Is Needed](#), *Maryland Matters* (March 2021).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Dollar For](#)

Dollar For is a national nonprofit with a tool that helps patients check whether a hospital bill qualifies for financial assistance, submit an application, and seek debt relief.

[Medical Bills: Everything You Need to Know About Your Rights](#) (Community Catalyst and U.S. PIRG)

This guide is designed to support patients navigating medical bills and other common charges they might encounter in health care settings.

Please contact Public Justice Center or Debt Collective directly for additional outreach materials.

CONTACT INFORMATION

[Public Justice Center](#)

Ashley Black

Attorney, Health & Benefits Equity Project
blacka@publicjustice.org

David Reische

Paralegal, Health & Benefits Equity Project
reisched@publicjustice.org

[Debt Collective](#)

Lindsey Muniak

Medical Debt Program Director
lindsey@debtcollective.org

Sam Winans

Medical Debt Field Organizer
sam@debtcollective.org