



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**

June 13, 2024

Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner
5000 Capitol Blvd. SE
Tumwater, WA 98501

RE: rulemaking implementation of SSB 5986 updates to the Balance Billing Protection Act (BBPA) rules in Chap. 284-43B WAC.

Rules coordinator,

On behalf of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (Society), we are pleased to share our support for the Office of the Insurance Commissioner's (OIC) continued focus on the Washington State Balance Billing Protection Act and the update to include ground ambulances embodied in SSB 5986 from the 2024 legislative session. The Society has been engaged in the process from the outset and is pleased with the results which will ensure the maximum, wraparound protections for all Washingtonians related to ambulance charges.

Multiple sclerosis is an unpredictable disease of the central nervous system. Currently there is no cure. Symptoms vary from person to person and may include disabling fatigue, mobility challenges, cognitive changes and vision issues. An estimated 1 million people live with MS in the United States. Early diagnosis and treatment are critical to minimize disability. Significant progress is being made to achieve a world free of MS. Nearly 1 million people in the United States are currently living with MS with some of the highest concentrations here in the Pacific Northwest.

The Society is grateful for the OIC's work in facilitating public participation, collecting feedback, and keeping the process of enrolling ground ambulance services transparent through the state Balance Billing Protection Act. **We now have ambulance service provider rules which ensure a robust set of billing protections for all Washingtonians.** We thank the OIC for its work and focus and please contact Seth.Greiner@nmss.org with any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Seth M. Greiner". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Seth M. Greiner
Senior Manager, Advocacy