

Dear

After repeatedly trying to work out an agreement for reasonable fees and a workable payment plan with your Billing Department, I am turning to you in the hope that you may bring this matter to a resolution. I am enclosing copies of my correspondence with your hospital to date to help you understand the problem.

As you can see, I am one of the millions of Americans who can not afford health insurance but who do not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare. It is my understanding that your hospital charges persons who cannot afford health insurance fees that are often more than ten times the amounts your hospital routinely accepts in payment for the same services by patients who are insured or covered under government programs.

Your hospital's practice of price gouging financially disadvantaged patients who are unable to defend themselves is completely contrary to your status as a supposed not-for-profit institution. It is also counterproductive. All it does is destroy already strained family finances by forcing families into bankruptcy without making it more likely that your institution will receive payment.

I have attempted to get the information necessary to determine your customary fees (see enclosed correspondence) but your hospital has refused to comply. Without this information, it is impossible to determine the reasonable costs of your services or to work out a reasonable payment plan. For these reasons, and those outlined in the enclosed correspondence, I continue to dispute your charges.

As I am sure you are aware, if this matter proceeds to litigation, your hospital will be required to provide this information as part of the discovery process. If your purpose is to receive the reasonable and customary fees for services properly rendered, I am sure you would see no need to conceal this information. I would, therefore, hope that you would instruct your employees to

supply the requested material so that we may constructively resolve this matter.

Since the problem of price gouging uninsured citizens by non-for-profit Hospitals is a problem that effects a large portion of Bronx citizens, I am sending copies of this letter and attachments to my NYS Senator and Assemblyperson. I believe that unless our government stops this unfair practice many Bronx residents such as myself will be financially ruined because of your Hospital's use of its disproportionate resources to pursue non-competitive, unnegotiated inflated prices.

Please be further advised that pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act I do not want to be contacted by phone, at home, at work or on my cell phone, by anyone from your institution or any collection agency authorized by you, regarding this claimed bill. Any contact must be in writing only.

In addition, if this bill is reported to any credit reporting agency, it must be listed as "disputed. "

Very truly yours,

cc: State Assembly

Nettie Mayersohn - 27th District  
Jeffrion Aubry - 35th District  
Aravella Simotas - 36th District  
Robert J. Rodriguez - 68th District  
Keith L.T. Wright - 70th District  
Herman Farrell Jr. - 71st District  
Guillermo Linares - 72nd District  
Peter Rivera - 76th District  
Vanessa Gibson - 77th District  
José Rivera - 78th District  
Eric Stevenson - 79th District  
Naomi Rivera - 80th District  
Jeffrey Dinowitz - 81st District  
Carl Heastie - 83rd District

Carmen Arroyo - 84th District  
Marcos Crespo - 85th District  
Nelson Castro - 86th District  
J. Gary Pretlow - 87th District  
Amy Paulin - 88th District

State Senator

Tony Avella, District 11  
José M. Serrano, District 28  
Bill Perkins, District 30  
Adriano Espaillat, District 31  
Ruben Diaz, District 32  
Gustavo Rivera, District 33  
Jeffrey D. Klein, District 34  
Ruth Hassell-Thompson, District 36