

February 21, 2019

The Honorable Ralph Northam
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

RE: Sign H.B. 2538

Dear Governor Northam:

On behalf of the Virginia Society of Plastic Surgeons (VASPS) and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), we are writing in support of H.B. 2538. VASPS is the largest association of plastic surgeons in Virginia, and in conjunction with our national affiliate, ASPS, we collectively represent 205 board-certified plastic surgeons in the state. Our mission is to advance quality care for plastic surgery patients and promote public policy that protects patient safety.

VASPS and ASPS believe that patients need to be fully informed of their potential to receive care from out-of-network providers and payers, facilities, and providers are all responsible for communicating network-related information. Facilities are well-positioned to inform their patients of potential interactions with out-of-network providers and give them the opportunity to make adjustments to avoid balance bills. We agree that facilities should – for elective, nonemergency services – give patients notice of every facility-based provider group providing healthcare services at the facility.

Therefore, we urge you to sign H.B. 2538 into law. Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Hermes, ASPS's Director of Advocacy and Relations, at phermes@plasticsurgery.org or (847) 228-3331 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Alan Matarasso, MD, FACS
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons



Enrique A. Silberblatt, MD, MA, FACS
President, Virginia Society of Plastic Surgeons