

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 12/11/2025 07:43 PM
Council File No: 25-0583
Comments for Public Posting: Please see my attached PDF. Vote no. Send back for reconsideration and amend appropriately.

Item #39 (CF25-0583)

12/12/25

Good morning, Los Angeles City Council. As I had expressed in an email to multiple Councilmembers and staff on December 10, and over the phone to Councilmember Raman's office on December 11, some of my concerns surrounding this ratings increase are as follows:

1. Order 611 raises base rates for ambulance costs by approximately 29% on average according to pages 3 and 14 in the CAO report/Board Order 611. Insurers obviously will pay most of these amounts (that's *if they* opt in to certain networks), and even though AB 716 would appear to protect the insured to an extent, it won't protect the inevitable premium increases that will follow, if passed, while residents are already drowning in medical debt, increased costs, and a federal death machine hellbent on ripping healthcare coverage from those who need it most.

2. Medical supply replacement costs are open-ended and not capped, unlike L.A. County's "disposable medical supplies" flat fee. How does this not invite inflated billing?

3. "Special service fees" are also open-ended and a potential nightmare for utilization management. Many of these fees will likely be disputed and subsequently denied. I can speak to this as one of my family members works as a utilization manager. Separately, another one of my family members worked as a health care manager for a major insurance company for decades. When I spoke to them about this agenda item and my specific concerns they replied back "Legitimate concerns! The average 29% increase may be higher than that; not sure if the author weighted the services based off of usage and historic billing [...] The other points around services and [durable medical expenses] are more difficult to get control of costs as rates will fluctuate. Not a good time for any increase..."

4. ***The proposal language cedes future rate control to L.A. County, creating nearly-guaranteed annual increases with no future City Council review based on the County's formula.***--"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all future adjustments to private ambulance service rates shall be automatically adjusted according to the percentage adjustment of any new rates determined by the County for private ambulance service;" (Pg. 17 of the CAO Report attached to CF25-0583).

5. The federal government had already provided ground ambulance services with special treatment through its exemption in the "No Surprises Act." Please don't allow what should be a closely-regulated business to abuse an already abusive and out-of-control medical billing system.

Some will argue that these services are optional because they're private ambulance services. Say that to the patient in the hospital who is discharged but requires transport. Say that to dialysis patients. Say that to hospice patients or those routinely needing the support, or when the LAFD calls on these for-profit services when needed.

Thank you.

Andrew Rudick