On Friday, October 5 President Trump signed into law H.R. 302, the FAA Reauthorization Act, which provides a five-year reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration and takes steps to provide consumer protections against surprise air ambulance billing.

Under current law, air ambulance companies are treated as an air carrier and are regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration. This prevents states from being able to regulate these companies and thus many providers have not participated in insurer networks. This has ultimately led to uncapped prices and patients being charged the balance of bills that their insurance carrier won’t cover. Individuals at some Oswald clients have been balance billed as much as $80,000 for air ambulance services.

The final legislation establishes a council of industry representatives to oversee air ambulances. This council would be led by the Department of Transportation and consist of air ambulance providers and insurance carrier representatives with the goal of writing and re-evaluating consumer protections, including balance billing practices. H.R. 302 highlights that Congress is aware of the surprise air ambulance billing issue and it could serve as a stepping stone for further consumer protections in the future.

Please contact your Oswald client team representative for further information.