Louisiana

In the 2019 legislative term, Louisiana introduced legislation to tackle surprise and balance billing (HB 371, HB 374). However, neither measure passed. The state continued its efforts to contain prescription drug prices and passed legislation to regulate pharmacy benefit managers (SB 41, SB 239). Additionally, the legislature passed SB 173, which requires continued coverage of essential health benefits and protection of patients with pre-existing condition as provided under the Affordable Care Act in the event the ACA is repealed.

In 2018, Louisiana passed a number of legislation to promote transparency in healthcare and curb healthcare costs. The Legislature passed the Pharmacist Communication with Patients Act (SB 241), which allows pharmacists to provide drug cost information to patients, along with HB 436, which prohibits limitations on disclosures of such information. In addition, Governor John Bel Edwards signed SB 283, which requires pharmaceutical benefit managers to issue an annual transparency report about how they operate in the state.

In 2017, legislature focused on regulating healthcare price transparency by passing legislation that allows health insurance providers to negotiate charges and fees associated with individual health policies.