“This new law is transformational. It ensures that Virginians will no longer have to worry about facing unexpected medical bills when they receive health care. Achieving this victory for Virginia patients and families took many long hours of negotiations with a diverse group of stakeholders who share a common belief that patients should not be burdened with the task of negotiating an outstanding medical bill with their insurance company. Patients recovering from medical care should focus on healing, not the emotional and financial anxieties of resolving unexpected, expensive medical bills that can explode household budgets and place families at risk of bankruptcy. Under this law, patients will no longer be responsible for unexpected medical expenses once they have met their deductible and co-payment obligation. I am proud to have worked on this successful effort that balances the interests of patients, providers, and insurers and that enshrines in the law important financial protections for Virginians when they seek health care.”