Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act
As we understand the amendment to the existing KPME Bill is to,

1. Bring the PMEs under the purview of the government.
2. Price capping of various procedures, imprisonment of doctors and setting up of a grievance redress cell
3. To put a stop demanding advance payment in case of emergency treatment, and not releasing dead bodies to relatives till all dues have been settled.

Why all this?
1. Build more State of Art Hospitals and allow Doctors to admit and treat patient
2. Pay them on “Fee for Service”
3. Do not collect any money from the Patients

We have Health Care structure and Laws in place
1. Health care regulators in place and so are the laws.
2. Judiciary to provide justice to all.
3. MCI to regulate Doctors
4. State government agency to regulate Hospitals

Choose your Doctor
Choose your Doctor carefully and have Trust in him, discuss your medical issues, line of treatment and costs with him in the beginning. The doctors will do the right thing and are responsible for patient care.

The Doctor – patient relationship is based on Trust
Once the treatment commences, no one should interfere in Medical decisions taken by the Doctors and care provision unless they want to be vicariously responsible in case of Medical negligence. People can have second opinion and change the Doctor.

1. To arrive at the final diagnosis, the doctor will investigate.
2. To provide effective treatment doctor will perform procedures or use drugs and materials that may be expensive. Then his aim is to cure patient.

The patient Care is not simple.
Anyone can react violently even to a B complex injection and loose life in minutes. So, no one knows how the patient reacts to treatment and hence in case of complications the costs build up as the treatment progress. Hence no one should cap the investigations and treatment costs in the interest of patients.

Things to Ponder
It is a fact that the Governments collects advance Tax, levy penalty if payment is delayed. Such being the case why are they not allowing the Hospitals to collect advance amount while the patient is admitted, and treatment commenced?
There is no Free Meal in this world
If the government does not want the Hospitals to collect money from the patients in advance then they should provide an annual deposit of Rs.10 lakhs to each of the PME hospital to treat patients in emergency and other conditions and deduct it from this advance.

Quality has costs, someone must pay for it.
Capping costs will result in lowering standards. The government hospitals are in poor condition because of low cost treatment or funds not being provided for. The KPME Act in present form is sure to kill the private sector Hospitals and Doctor`s Profession. It will also bring down the standards to Government Health care standards.

It is said that 80% of the poor prefer Private treatment
At present a small portion of government servants, bureaucrats, politicians and the poor avail treatment at government hospitals. The pattern will not change till the government hospitals reach the Corporate Hospital standards. But then the Government wants to run hospitals and float Health Care Schemes for the reasons best known to them. They were not able to catch up with the Private sector hospitals.

The KPME Act will add more costs to patient care,
With the Act in place the Doctors and Hospitals will have to practice defensive medicine to cover the added risk factors. The people will not change habits that easily and so is their mindset. On the other hand, they will sell everything they have to get treated in private hospitals irrespective of high costs.

Universal Health Insurance Scheme
Now what happens to Rs. 869.4 crores realized by merging schemes and the newly created Aadhaar linked Categorized Universal Health Insurance Scheme? Will it evaporate without trace?

Forcing does not help but attracting will
It looks like the Government Floating Health Schemes and forcing the poor to use the government hospitals to get treated against their will, does not look right. The Statistics proves that the government has failed to get the Health Minister, Principle Secretary Health, his team of health managers, governmentemploys, bureaucrats and politicians to avail the facilities of government hospitals all these years.

Simple Solution
Allow patients to choose their Doctors and Hospitals to get treated. Government should develop world class Hospitals and allow patients to choose their Doctors and Hospitals to get treated instead of running Health Schemes and Hospitals and forcing them to avail treatment at an ill equipped under staffed, poorly managed government Hospitals.