

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 10, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Minority Leader  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

Thank you for your leadership on addressing the unfortunate practice of “surprise billing,” which leaves patients with unexpected charges after they receive emergency or out-of-network medical care. Many of our own constituents have been left helpless in disputes between health care providers and insurance plans, saddled with untenable out-of-pocket costs after receiving potentially life-saving care.

As you know, ongoing bipartisan, bicameral negotiations continue with the goal of addressing this critical issue in a larger legislative package before the end of this year. We are supportive of these efforts, and unequivocally believe Congress should complete legislation that will hold patients harmless in unplanned out of network care. However, we also believe it is critical that this legislation includes a balanced independent dispute resolution system between providers and insurers. We are committed to ensuring that our local doctors, hospitals, and communities are not disproportionately impacted by an approach that fails to include true measures of accountability.

Patients, doctors, and hospitals are relying on us to address this issue without harming the quality of our health care system or hurting our local economies. A benchmarked, one-size-fits-all, approach would hinder network adequacy and access to care, particularly in rural and underserved areas. In contrast, instituting a neutral, independent review process after direct negotiations between the parties can lower health care costs without massive disruptions to the health care market.

An accessible and meaningful appeals process would also ensure that the playing field is not tilted toward health insurance companies at the expense of our local hospitals or doctors, especially those who are already in-network, while still ensuring that the patient is out of the middle and not financially responsible for a surprise medical bill.

We look forward to working with you to end the practice of surprise billing through balanced legislation. This is a tremendous opportunity to ensure that no American family is faced with an unaffordable bill for unexpected out-of-network care ever again, without threatening the quality

of care they receive from physicians and hospitals across the nation or increasing the cost of care for anyone.

Thank you again for your work to address this pressing issue—we are confident we can achieve a fair result to protect patients, providers, and insurers.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH D. MORELLE  
Member of Congress



DONNA E. SHALALA  
Member of Congress



VAN TAYLOR  
Member of Congress



DAVID P. ROE, M.D.  
Member of Congress



RAJA KRISHNAMOORTH  
Member of Congress



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LANCE GOODEN  
Member of Congress



NEAL P. DUNN, M.D.  
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING  
Member of Congress



GILBERT R. CISNEROS, JR  
Member of Congress



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DAVID A. SCOTT  
Member of Congress



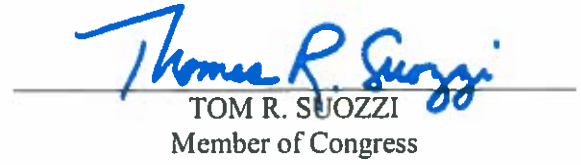
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JIM HAGEDORN  
Member of Congress



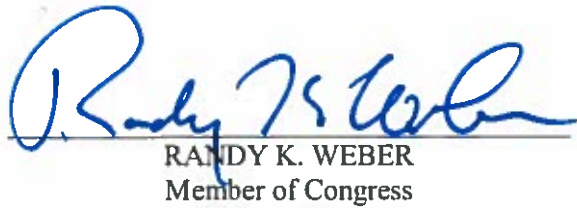
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Member of Congress



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TOM R. SUOZZI  
Member of Congress



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RANDY K. WEBER  
Member of Congress



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GLENN "GT" THOMPSON  
Member of Congress



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RALPH ABRAHAM, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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DENVER RIGGLEMAN  
Member of Congress



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MAX ROSE  
Member of Congress



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BRIAN FITZPATRICK  
Member of Congress



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JARED HUFFMAN  
Member of Congress



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STEVEN HORSFORD  
Member of Congress



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MARY GAY SCANLON  
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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ED PERLMUTTER  
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



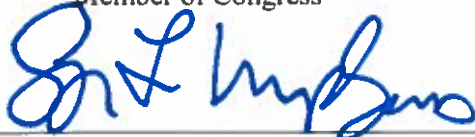
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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BILL POSEY  
Member of Congress



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DOUG LAMBORN  
Member of Congress



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AUSTIN SCOTT  
Member of Congress



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ALCEE HASTINGS  
Member of Congress