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Editor
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
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Via: letters@nytimes.com

**Subject: Doctors Win Again, in Cautionary Tale for Democrats, by Margot Sanger-Katz
(Dec. 18, A-22)**

To the editor:

It is offensive to pejoratively declare “Doctors Win Again” when reporting how Congress failed to fully protect patients from surprise insurance gaps before the end of this legislative session. Physicians, including neurosurgeons, are working diligently to end “surprise” medical bills. Details matter, however, and there is something seriously wrong with legislation that punishes those physicians who are doing the right thing by joining provider networks and accepting the rates negotiated with these health plans.

Rather than getting to the root cause of the problem — narrow provider networks and gaps in insurance coverage that leave patients vulnerable — the legislative compromise unveiled by Congressional leaders has stalled in Congress because, among other things, it treats good doctors unfairly by imposing unsustainable pay cuts on top of rates that have already been negotiated downward.

The State of New York has the most effective approach to address out-of-network billing, which is supported by consumers, health plans, physicians, hospitals and employers. This is the model Congress should adopt, as it would protect patients, fairly reimburse physicians and avoid rewarding those health plans that consistently put profits over patients.

Sincerely,

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