

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Legislature should address full problem of surprise billing

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Rep. Paul Wieland, R-Imperial.

The passing of SB 982 on the last day of the Missouri legislative session is one small step for patients, but one giant leap for the Legislature. Protecting people from surprise medical bills is a bipartisan, common-sense issue that should have an easy time passing, yet anything is difficult when the interests of patients, providers and insurance companies all are taken into consideration.

On May 18, the patients were put first. While I remain thankful to Sen. Paul Wieland, R-Imperial, and all the legislators who worked to get this legislation passed, I am left remembering all the stories of Missourians who have received unfair surprise bills from their doctors' offices, pharmacies and labs. SB 982 only addresses surprise bills that come from the emergency room.

This may be a giant leap for the Legislature as the climate this session was distracting to say the least. But what about all the Missourians who have surprise bills from other places? Let's celebrate this victory while also holding the Legislature accountable for addressing the full problem of surprise billing. We can't wash our hands of this issue yet.

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