

[http://www.stlamerican.com/reader\\_interaction/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/protecting-people-from-surprise-medical-bills/article\\_1a1e6496-6451-11e8-a682-1bcc12dcd0fd.html](http://www.stlamerican.com/reader_interaction/letters_to_the_editor/protecting-people-from-surprise-medical-bills/article_1a1e6496-6451-11e8-a682-1bcc12dcd0fd.html)

## Protecting people from surprise medical bills

May 29, 2018



The passing of SB 982 on the last day of the 2018 Missouri Legislative Session is one small step for patients, but one giant leap for the MO Legislature. Protecting people from surprise medical bills is a bipartisan, commonsense 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. Patients were put first.

While I remain thankful to Sen. Wieland 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. But what about all the Missourians who have surprise bills from other places? Let's celebrate this victory while also holding the MO Legislature accountable for addressing the full problem of surprise billing.

Jackie Schmitz

Via email