

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 12, 2023

Carol Burrell, President and CEO
Northeast Georgia Health System
743 Spring Street
Gainesville, GA 30501

Dear Ms. Burrell,

In light of the recent expiration of the contract between UnitedHealthcare and Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS), I write to encourage any action necessary to reach an agreement with NGHS that will allow continuous in-network health coverage for thousands of Georgians.

On May 1, 2023, NGHS and UnitedHealthcare were unable to reach compromise to renew a contract before its expiration. Nearly 12,000 Georgians rely on your contract with UnitedHealthcare, and the consequences of further delay or inaction would be catastrophic to their health and wellbeing.

I have heard from many Georgians stressing the importance of an agreement for their continuity of care. Many have written to me that they will have to find new doctors for their child that require specialized care, or risk having their child go without the care they need.

I understand that these negotiations impact NGHS's financial standing at a time when our state's health care system is fragile. However, preserving access to care is above all the most important. Every day that passes without a negotiated contract means patients in Georgia will have to pay substantial out-of-pocket costs or completely forego needed and necessary care.

I urge NGHS and UnitedHealthcare to quickly reach an agreement and prioritize the patients you serve in Georgia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Warnock" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Raphael Warnock
U.S. Senator