

Congress of the United States  
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 2, 2021

Pamela Stahl, President  
Georgia Commercial & Specialty Business  
Anthem, Inc.  
740 Peachtree Road NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Ms. Stahl,

I write to encourage your continued good faith negotiations with Northside Hospital. Nearly 400,000 Georgians rely on your contract with Northside, which is set to lapse on December 31, 2021, and the consequences of delay or inaction would be catastrophic to their health and wellbeing.<sup>1</sup> I have heard from several constituents stressing the importance of an agreement for their continuity of care.

Your company has stated that ensuring affordable health care costs for patients is a priority.<sup>2</sup> A contract lapse will likely lead individuals to delay care out of fear of receiving large medical bills, which can be detrimental to patients and result in worse health outcomes and an even higher cost of care. That said, I appreciate your actions to keep patients informed of the potential contract lapse, including removing Northside as a provider for those choosing plans on the marketplace during open enrollment.

While addressing rising health care expenditures is important, it is a complex issue that cannot be solved by stalling contracts with providers and risking patient care. Every day that passes without a negotiated contract means patients will have to pay substantial out-of-pocket costs or completely forego needed and necessary care. Reducing health costs should never interfere with patients' access to care.

No health care company should ever put profit over patients, especially during a global pandemic. That is why I strongly urge you to quickly reach an agreement with Northside and prioritize the patients you serve in Georgia and throughout the country. My constituents need and deserve stability as we continue fighting COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Reverend Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/atlanta/patients-worried-anthem-northside-hospital-look-cut-ties-if-no-agreement-reached/AYGLT2TEVRGNNJK5J4SDXK767U/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.anthem.com/blog/member-news/northside/?brandcd=ABCBS>