

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

December 2, 2021

Brian Thompson, CEO
UnitedHealthcare
9900 Bren Rd E
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I write to encourage immediate action to reach an agreement with Wellstar Health System. Nearly 80,000 Georgians rely on your contract with Wellstar, which expired on October 3, 2021, and the consequences of further delay or inaction would be catastrophic to their health and wellbeing.¹ I have heard from several constituents stressing the importance of an agreement for their continuity of care.

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 in Georgia 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.

In addition to the uncertainty caused by contractual delays, proposals like UnitedHealthcare's new emergency room policy may lead individuals to delay care out of fear of receiving large medical bills.² Such delay can be detrimental to patients and result in worse health outcomes and an even higher cost of 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 Wellstar Health System and finally 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

¹ <https://www.ajc.com/news/wellstar-united-insurance-contract-ends-without-a-deal-affecting-thousands/K55CJTfHNJBZBOJXR62MO7YF5I/>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/10/health/united-health-insurance-emergency-care.html>