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Congress Can’t Fix “Surprise Medical Bills”

Surprise! Congress can’t fix “surprise medical bills.” First, they’re pushing price controls, which will cut access to care. Second, they’re ignoring the root of the problem: health plans and narrow networks. Third, health plans and hospitals are engaged in false advertising when they claim to be in-network and they aren’t.

The U.S. House wants baseball-style arbitration, where each side submits a dollar amount and the arbiter decides. But this model, which is being used in New York, is making health care more expensive. The best idea is for states to ban false advertising and put hospitals and health plans on the hook to pay the bills when they violate the law. Congress will only make a national mess of things.