

From: Representative Greg Walden Representative.Greg.Walden@mail.house.gov 
Subject: Greg Walden Works to Stop Surprise Medical Billing
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News from Representative Walden

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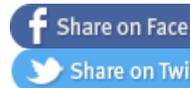


Dear Friend,

Greg Walden Works to Stop Surprise Medical Billing

Surprise Medical Bills are unfair -- penalizing patients for following their doctor's orders. I have heard too many stories of individuals who received thousands of dollars worth of medical bills after inadvertently receiving care from an out-of-network provider. In one instance, Sonji Wilkes -- a woman who testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee -- shared that when her son was born, he had a medical issue and was rushed to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) just down the hall from where she gave birth. The result of this trip down the hall was a \$50,000 bill. The hospital had contracted out their NICU, making it out of network for Sonji Wilkes. There are too many stories like this, which is why I am working hard to put an end to the harmful practice of [surprise medical billing](#).

My bill, the [No Surprises Act](#), would ensure that patients who follow the doctor's orders do not later receive surprise medical bills. This bill has already passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee and I am working hard to ensure that it also passes the full House and eventually is signed into law by the President.



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Click [here](#) or on the image above to watch Rep. Walden's MSNBC interview on stopping Surprise Medical Billing.

In addition to legislation, I recently launched a [bipartisan investigation](#) with Congressman Frank Pallone Jr., the Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, into private equity firms' role in the surprise billing practices. We sent a [letter](#) to key private equity firms involved in the situation and requested information and documents pertaining to their ownership of private physician staffing and emergency transportation companies. I am concerned with what potential impact these firm's involvement could be having on the rising cost of health care. I will continue to investigate this and will keep you posted on what I find out.



CENTRAL OREGON'S NEWS LEADER

Walden, Democrat probe equity firms, surprise medical bills

Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), Republican Leader of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee said Monday they have launched a bipartisan investigation into practices of private equity firms surrounding surprise medical billing.

Click [here](#) to read more from KTVZ.

Greg Walden Announces Good News for Oregon Wheat Farmers

This month, President Trump signed a [trade deal](#) with Japan that I expect to significantly benefit Oregon agriculture, especially wheat, potatoes, wine, and beef. The deal is set to reduce Japanese tariffs on agriculture and industrial products. During my recent town halls in Sherman and Gilliam counties, many shared their concerns regarding trade and access to markets. Japan is a top market for Oregon wheat and is a great opportunity to grow opportunities for our beef, blueberries, potatoes, and wine. I am glad that this deal has been made and I look forward to seeing the needed boost for our farmers and ranchers.

Greg Walden Continues to Combat the Opioid Epidemic

The opioid epidemic has swept across our state and nation and it is going to take an all-hands-on-deck approach to combat it. Almost a year ago, President Trump signed my bill, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, which provided a historic effort from Congress to tackle substance use. While recent data show that overdose deaths have gone down and the

While recent data show that overdose deaths have gone down and the number of people seeking medical care for substance use has gone up, there is still lots more work to be done.

Ahead of the one-year-anniversary of this legislation being signed into law, I have continued my effort to tackle this epidemic by launching a new phase in the [patient brokering investigation](#). We must tackle this epidemic from all angles -- and that includes investigating facilities that are more concerned with cashing in a patient's checks than the actual patient. I will continue to keep you updated on my discoveries.

Greg Walden Visits the Hanford Site with Secretary Perry

I kicked off the month of October with a trip to the [Hanford Site](#) with Secretary of Energy Rick Perry and Congressman Dan Newhouse. The millions of gallons of Cold War-era nuclear waste in close proximity to the Columbia River has long been a potential hazard.



Walden gives a thumbs-up along with Secretary Perry and Rep. Newhouse.

We were there to commemorate the completion of the transfer of K-Basin Sludge -- some of nuclear waste closet to the river -- which is great news for the Pacific Northwest. The transfer was also completed under budget, ahead of schedule, and reduces the environmental risk to the Columbia River.

My Columbia Basin
www.mycolumbiabasin.com

Walden, Newhouse, Perry join the party at Hanford

U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Sunnyside) and Rep. Greg Walden (R-Hood River) accompanied U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation Tuesday. The three attended an employee celebration of the completion of the K-Basin Sludge Transfer.

While the cleanup at Hanford has been slow, Walden said the K-Basin Sludge Transfer was completed under budget and ahead of schedule.

Click [here](#) to read more from My Columbia Basin.

Greg Walden Delivers Keynote Speech at Christening of PCU Oregon

This month, I had the honor of delivering the keynote speech at the christening of the future U.S.S. Oregon. She is a Virginia-class submarine and is the third navy vessel to carry our state's great name. PCU Oregon is set to be commissioned next year. They christened the submarine with sparkling wine from Oregon and water from Crater Lake.



Click [here](#) or on the image above to watch the remarks.

It was an inspiring experience to represent the state of Oregon and be among some of our nation's finest young men and women. The future U.S.S. Oregon and those who serve alongside her will be guardians of the seas and protectors of freedom. The young men and women who serve our nation deserve the best services and support we can provide, and I remain committed to ensuring our service members and veterans have nothing short of that. May God bless all our men and women in uniform.

AP



**US Navy's new attack submarine christened in
Connecticut**

CONNECTICUT

The U.S. Navy's newest attack submarine, the future USS Oregon, was christened in Connecticut Saturday.

Politicians, shipyard leaders and Navy officials gathered for a ceremony at the General Dynamics Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, where they spoke about the importance of Virginia-class submarines and praised the skills of the thousands of shipyard workers in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Virginia who built the Oregon.

Click [here](#) to read more from AP.

Greg Walden's Work to Help Oregonians Affected by Autism Signed into Law

The President recently signed the [AUTISM Cares Act](#) into law, a bill that came out of the Energy and Commerce Committee where I serve as the lead Republican. This bill will benefit Oregonians and Americans who are affected by Autism. The legislation extends funding for the interagency task force dedicated to advancing Autism science. While this is great news, we still have lots of work ahead of us to advance medicine and I will continue to be an advocate for improving and expanding Oregonians access to quality health care.

Ways My Office Can Help

We recently helped a constituent with an erroneous tax collection. This Oregonian and his company worked with the Louisiana Department of Revenue for a few months and were told their taxes were refunded to the Department of Treasury. Our office discovered the refund never actually happened, and we ensured that it was properly refunded back to the constituent's company.

If you need help with any federal agency, please reach out to my office at 800-533-3303. My staff is available and ready to assist you with problems you are having with federal agencies, and my office will do everything in our power to get results for you.

That's all for this update. Remember, you can always keep in touch with me via [email](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

It is an honor to represent you in the U.S. Congress.

Best regards,

Greg Walden
U.S. Representative
Oregon's Second District

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