



AMERICAN BENEFITS  
COUNCIL

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### **Latest surprise billing rules ‘get it right’:**

*Protects patients, helps control health care costs for all consumers*

WASHINGTON, DC - “From the very beginning, the battle against ‘surprise’ medical billing has been about protecting patients from the surprise bills themselves and lowering health care costs for all consumers as well,” said Ilyse Schuman, American Benefits Council senior vice president, health policy, today.

“After a hard-fought battle in Congress over the proper legislative solution to this problem, and a challenging effort on the part of regulators to write all-new rules for payers and providers, the Biden administration got it right and as Congress intended,” Schuman said.

The latest round of [interim final regulations \(IFR\)](#), implementing the surprise billing provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA), wisely bases the appropriate payment amount for a disputed service through the independent dispute resolution process on the qualifying payment amount for a similar service. This approach confirming the primacy of median negotiated rates will help maintain existing incentives for providers to join provider networks, which will, in turn, put downward pressure on health care costs and related premiums.

“We applaud the Biden administration for developing rules that will benefit all patients in our health care system,” Schuman said.

For more information on “surprise” billing or other health policy matters, or to arrange an interview with the Council’s policy team, contact Jason Hammersla, Council vice president, communications, at [jhammersla@abcstaff.org](mailto:jhammersla@abcstaff.org) or by phone at (202) 422-4652 (cell).

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