

OPINION // LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters: Family's \$97,000 bill is another health insurance denial shocker. How this can be avoided

By Chronicle readers

April 3, 2024



Medical debt is the leading cause of personal bankruptcy in the United States.

Juan Moyano/Getty Images

Regarding [“Parents stunned by infant’s \\$97,000 air ambulance bill that insurer wouldn’t pay”](#) (Health, SFChronicle.com, March 30): This story is heartbreaking. The dying child survived due to the rapid actions of the rural health team and advanced care at UCSF.

Cigna refused to pay for the air ambulance, and now the family owes \$97,000.

[Medical debt](#) is the leading cause of personal bankruptcy in the United States. Insured families cannot afford high patient portions, denials and deductibles. No other advanced nation saddles its populace with medical debt — most view health care as a common good that benefits the public and productivity.

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Removing middlemen in health care saves money by reducing administration costs and money wasted on corporate profits. Single-payer health care would save most of us money. Try the savings calculator created by economists at <https://healthyca.org>.

[AB2200](#) will give Californians single-payer health care. It is supported by the California Nurses Association and many physicians. Please encourage your California representatives to support it.

No one should have to choose between a dying child and a \$97,000 medical bill.

Dr. Kathleen Healey, Napa

Flag origin questioned

Regarding [“Rainbow Gay Pride flag in Castro could become a landmark”](#) (Arts & Entertainment, SFChronicle.com, March 26): While Gilbert Baker might have had