

Lawrence Schreiber
President
Empire Blue Cross-Blue Shield
11 W. 42nd Street
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Schreiber:

I am a member of the Empire Blue Cross-Blue Shield plan and received your letter stating that South Nassau's contract with Empire will terminate effective May 1, 2018 and there will be a two-month "cooling off" period through June 30, 2018.

I support South Nassau in their fight for a fair reimbursement rate. South Nassau is my hospital and my family and I and my neighbors rely on the hospital for emergency and non-emergency care. South Nassau is the only Trauma Center and life-saving cardiac interventional program on the Southern tier of Nassau County.

You stated, "Empire BlueCross BlueShield is committed to providing Empire Plan members with quality service at affordable rates. One way we do this is by negotiating competitive reimbursement rates with participating hospitals."

I learned that last year, Anthem, Inc., which owns Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield, reported \$3.4 billion in profit. South Nassau is a non-profit hospital whose costs to provide quality care continue to escalate.

Stop putting profits before patients.

South Nassau is an extremely valuable asset in our community. I urge you to reach an acceptable contract agreement before July 1, one that will provide fair reimbursement and allow South Nassau to continue to provide high-level and life-saving care for my family and neighbors.

Sincerely,