Greg Murphy says bill to fix No Surprises Act is ‘pretty close’

The GOP representative who sits on the Ways and Means Committee expects the panel will move after the midterm election.

By: Simon J. Levien | 10/13/2026 04:33 PM EDT

North Carolina Rep. Greg Murphy said he expects the Ways and Means Committee will have a plan for fixing the No Surprises Act during the lame-duck session after Election Day.

“I think it’s pretty close,” the Republican said in an interview with POLITICO.

Over several months, legislators have scrutinized the arbitration system the No Surprises Act established in 2020 to determine how much out-of-network doctors are paid when they treat patients in emergencies.

The law has shielded patients from unexpected medical bills, but the arbitration system it created has received millions more claims than expected. Arbitrators in some cases have awarded doctors sky-high payouts. Insurers have sometimes refused to pay.

Murphy, a urologist with a seat on Ways and Means, has proposed his own bill to penalize insurers for failing to pay up.

Ways and Means has been chewing on making changes to the No Surprises Act all year, but the committee has been relatively quiet compared to two other panels with jurisdiction.

Ways and Means has largely focused on tamping down ineligible claims that are creating a backlog in the system and enforcing payments after the dispute process has concluded, Murphy said.

Meanwhile, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has held several roundtables with staff, stakeholders and senators, and Chair Bill Cassidy (R-La.) hopes to introduce legislation on the issue before he departs Congress at the end of the year.

New Jersey Rep. Frank Pallone, the top Democrat on the Energy and Commerce Committee, has also put forward his own solution to eliminate arbitration and pay doctors at median in-network rates. Doctors reacted negatively to that proposal, saying it would undermine their negotiations with insurers over rates.