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.[@realDonaldTrump](#) giving his word - with every intention of breaking it - is nothing new. Nor is NK making ridiculous demands anything novel. But let's remember a few key things:

1. The medical bill is a result of NK torturing Warmbier.



2. Just signing the invoice (even if we don't intend to pay it) - signals to despots, terrorists, and criminals that AmCits are potential cash cows. Kidnap and torture an American, and you could get an IOU from the USG.

3. Typically, details of a hostage release are worked out well in advance so as to avoid surprises on the ground. Either the North Koreans threw this our way at the last minute or there was not adequate preparatory work.

4. [@POTUS](#) may not have intended to pay this invoice, but this invoice will be a problem for the USG regardless of who is President - kicking the can down the road doesn't get rid of the can. This invoice is a new bargaining chip for the North Koreans - something we owe them.

5. On a human level, I am glad that Ambassador Yun was authorized to do whatever it took to bring Otto Warmbier home.

6. From a national security perspective, this invoice is and will be recurring cost for our government and AmCits abroad. [@CNN](#) heading to you

.[@KateBolduan](#) and I discussed this on [@CNN](#) this morning - here is part of our segment



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