

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2014

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner
Administrator
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington D.C., 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius and Administrator Tavenner,

We write today to express concerns regarding the negative impacts that would result from the cuts in the proposed 2015 Medicare Advantage (MA) Call Letter and Advance Notice. The payment cuts outlined in this notice will have a significant negative effect on the 15 million seniors currently enrolled in the Medicare Advantage (MA) program and are a direct result of the cuts contained in the Affordable Care Act.

Providing alternative health care options through Medicare Advantage has proven extremely popular with seniors as demonstrated by the fact that over 50 percent of newly enrolled seniors in 2012 enrolled in MA plans. The plans are particularly important for the most vulnerable seniors including seniors that benefit from low-income subsidy (LIS) programs, the disabled, and those with chronic conditions. The managed care infrastructure of MA plans bring innovative delivery, better disease management, and patient-centered care to keep consumer costs down and provide additional benefits. The flexibility permitted in these plans allow seniors the opportunity to select the plan that best fits their needs, which has resulted in high satisfaction among seniors for their MA plans.

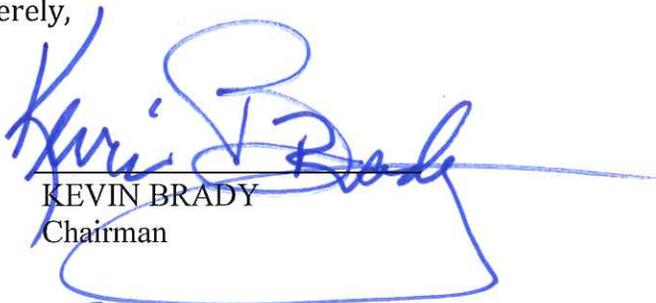
Another important benefit of MA plans is their ability to achieve cost savings for seniors and taxpayers alike by coordinating care and offering high quality options. MA plans have continued to excel despite the ongoing cuts from the ACA. However with this proposed rule implementing the ACA's cuts, regulatory changes proposed by CMS and the lapse of the quality bonus

demonstration program implemented by CMS without legislative approval, our nation's seniors are beginning to feel the full effects of the cuts enacted in the 2010 legislation.

As we enter the fourth year of ACA cuts to the MA program, seniors across the country will begin to feel the strain of these new cuts. The result will not be positive, and our seniors will face higher premiums or copayments, fewer benefits or losing access to the plans they have and like.

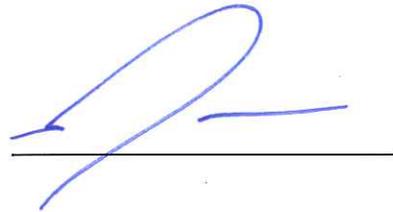
The cuts will cause seniors to lose the benefits, doctors, financial protections, and ultimately the plans that best serve their needs. We respectfully request that you withdraw those provisions in the proposed regulation that will harm seniors' access to Medicare Advantage plans and provide Congress with a plan to mitigate the looming cuts called for by the ACA that will jeopardize seniors' access to the plans they have and like, while ensuring taxpayer funds are being wisely used.

Sincerely,

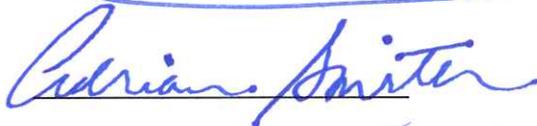


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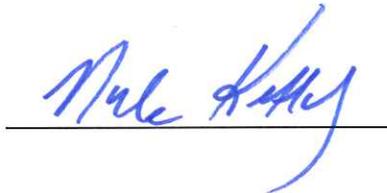
KEVIN BRADY
Chairman



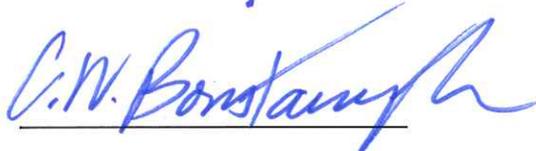
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Handwritten signature of Mark Kelly in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.



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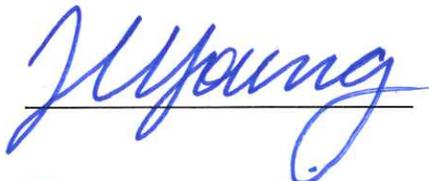
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Handwritten signature of X. Marshall in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.



Handwritten signature of Lynn Jenkins in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.



Handwritten signature of J. Young in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.



Handwritten signature of Erik Paulsen in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.



Handwritten signature of Pat Tiberius in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.