

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3516

April 4, 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 cuts from the Affordable Care Act continue to be detrimental to the program as they become fully phased in over the next several years and will affect all seniors in every county in America. Further payment cuts can only create more damage to the popular MA program, one that in 2012 over 50 percent of new enrollees decided to select over traditional fee-for-service.

In particular, the proposed regulation revisits the issue of decreasing the effectiveness of home risk assessments (HRAs). The ability for plans to deploy certified medical professionals out to a beneficiary's home to develop risk assessments allows for plans to implement vigorous risk adjustment programs to get a 'whole-picture' view of each beneficiary and address potential gaps in care. Unlike fee-for-service, MA plans code their beneficiaries' conditions as accurately as possible in order to ensure access to quality and appropriate services.

The Agency's proposal requires an office visit for an in-home diagnosis to be used for coding purposes. This policy change is not only a burden to seniors, but will also limit the MA plans ability to better manage and coordinate care through early identification of health conditions. While we recognize the importance of having qualified health professionals appropriately diagnosing these conditions, eliminating the ability of health

plans to effectively use HRAs will have negative health outcomes for beneficiaries and increase health costs in the long run.

There are 15 million seniors currently enrolled in the MA program, of which 90% of beneficiaries are satisfied. Our hope is to work with you to strengthen this program. However, the cuts contained in the Affordable Care Act will be detrimental to seniors' access to affordable MA plans, and enacting further policies such as these alterations to HRAs will cause further cuts to the program and in turn negatively impact our nation's seniors. These cuts ultimately will keep seniors from the plan they have and want to keep, or force them to face higher premiums with fewer benefits.

As you move to finalize the 2015 Call Letter and Rate Notice we respectfully ask that you pull back on any further unnecessary cuts to the MA program through policies that will be detrimental to the care of our nation's seniors.

Sincerely,



JIM RENACCI  
Member of Congress



SAM JOHNSON  
Member of Congress



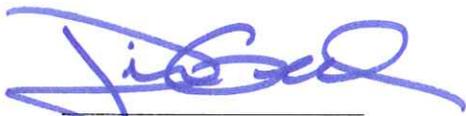
DEVIN NUNES  
Member of Congress



PATRICK TIBERI  
Member of Congress



DAVID REICHERT  
Member of Congress



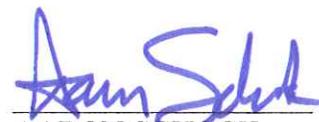
JIM GERLACH  
Member of Congress



VERN BUCHANAN  
Member of Congress



ADRIAN SMITH  
Member of Congress



AARON SCHOCK  
Member of Congress



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LYNN JENKINS  
Member of Congress



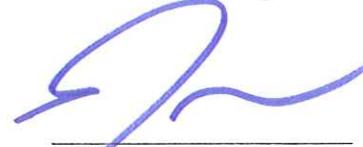
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ERIK PAULSEN  
Member of Congress



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DIANE BLACK  
Member of Congress



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TOM REED  
Member of Congress



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TODD YOUNG  
Member of Congress



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MIKE KELLY  
Member of Congress



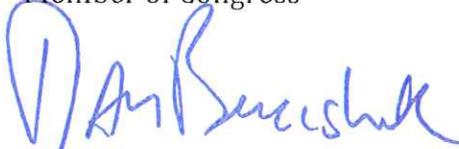
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TIM GRIFFIN  
Member of Congress



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JOHN DUNCAN  
Member of Congress



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DAN BENISHEK  
Member of Congress



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RICK CRAWFORD  
Member of Congress



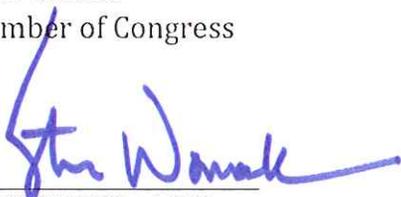
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BOB GIBBS  
Member of Congress



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PATRICK MEEHAN  
Member of Congress



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STEVE WOMACK  
Member of Congress



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RODNEY DAVIS  
Member of Congress

*David P. Joyce*  
DAVID JOYCE  
Member of Congress

*Keith J. Rothfus*  
KEITH ROTHFUS  
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*Jackie Walorski*  
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*Keith J. Rothfus*