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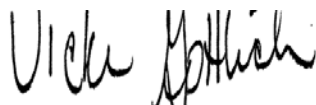
To the Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means:

The Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc. is pleased to support H.R. 3631, the "Medicare Premium Fairness Act," sponsored by Representative Titus. This bill would extend the current hold harmless policy to all Medicare enrollees, meaning that 2010 Part B premiums will remain at \$96.40 and no Social Security recipients will see a decrease in their Social Security checks.

Although Social Security benefits will not increase in 2010, many of the fixed expenses faced by Medicare beneficiaries will go up. For example, premiums for Medicare Part D drug plans are expected to increase in 2010, as are the costs for prescription drugs and the cost for other medical expenses. Adults living on fixed incomes, particularly those with limited resources, are unlikely to meet their increased costs. All Social Security recipients should be protected against increased Part B premiums in these circumstances. Beneficiaries should be protected again

We thank you for your efforts on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries. We look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Vicki Gottlich
Senior Policy Attorney