



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

January 25, 2017

Patrick Conway, MD
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 445-G
Washington DC 20201

Dear Acting Administrator Conway,

We write to express our strong support for the Medicare Advantage program and the high-quality, innovative, and affordable health care it provides to over 18 million seniors and individuals with disabilities. As Congress and the Administration consider policies affecting Medicare, we ask you to strengthen this vital and proven part of the program that has led the way on value-based care.

Millions of our constituents depend on Medicare Advantage for affordable, quality, patient-centered health care. Enrollment has increased by about 60 percent since 2010, as plans have demonstrated their ability to deliver value to their members. Nearly one of every three Medicare beneficiaries has selected a Medicare Advantage plan, with 90 percent of members reporting satisfaction with their selection.

Medicare Advantage continues to be an affordable option offering out of pocket spending caps, supplemental benefits including vision and dental, and often prescription drug coverage for no additional premiums for those who wish to enroll. For example, in 2017, roughly 80 percent of Medicare beneficiaries will have access to a Medicare Advantage plan with drug benefits for no additional premium. Medicare Advantage is of particular importance to beneficiaries with chronic conditions, as plans have the flexibility to offer in-home health clinical visits and disease management programs not always available in traditional Medicare.

We believe Medicare Advantage is an important part of the health care system that is working for America's seniors. We encourage the Administration to strongly support and build on Medicare Advantage for today's Medicare beneficiaries and those who will be entering the program in the future.

Sincerely,

Mike Cryso

Bill Nelson

Ray Alton

Thom Tillis

John Boozman

Walter

Ron Johnson

Jim Risch

Thad Cochran

Susan M. Collins

Liz Han

Joe Donnelly

Maria Cantwell

Mazie Hirono

Tom Carper

Rob Portman

Tom Cotton

Shelley Moore Capito

Joni K. Ernst

Richard Blumenthal

McR

Michael B. Enj

Jon Tustin

Richard Helber

August King -

John Cornyn

John F. Felt

Amy Klobuchar

Bill Cassidy, M.D.

W. Ben

Tom Udall

Jeff

Ray Bennett

Jeanne Shaheen

Brian Schatz

Chuck Grassley

Steve Daines

Pat Roberts

[Signature]

Kirsten Gillibrand

Mark R Warner

Seb Tischer

Mim F. Bant

[Signature]

Jeffrey A. Merkley

John M. Liu

Tom Lulli

John Barrasso

Cory Anderson

Heidi Heitkamp

John Hironaka

Bob Casey, Jr.

David A. Perdue

Ben Sasse

[Signature]

Rand Paul

James Van

John Furf

Jeyoung

Conan Alexander

Tom Hill

Paul Manchione

Lyndee

John Stone

M. Michael Bond