

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 16, 2016

Andrew Slavitt
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 445-G
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Acting Administrator Slavitt:

We write in advance of the CY2017 45-Day Notice for Medicare Advantage to reiterate our strong support for preserving the high quality health plan options, benefits and services that our constituents depend on through Medicare Advantage. Given the impact that payment policies could have on our constituents, we ask that you prioritize beneficiaries' experience by maintaining payment levels and avoiding harmful policy proposals for 2017.

Today, 17 million seniors and individuals with disabilities are enrolled in Medicare Advantage, which offers innovative and coordinated care delivery systems. Medicare Advantage is of particular importance to beneficiaries with chronic conditions, as plans have the flexibility to offer in-home health clinical visits as well as disease management programs not always available in traditional Medicare. This individualized, comprehensive care results in improved health outcomes and aligns with our shared focus on value-based payment.

Annual payment and policy changes create disruption and confusion among beneficiaries, especially in low-income, rural and minority populations. Any cuts that may be proposed this year would have the potential to stifle innovation and impede beneficiary access to high quality health care.

Medicare Advantage offers individuals affordable, patient-centered health care. We ask that any proposed payment or policy changes promote stability and preserve plan options for the millions of beneficiaries enrolled in the program.

Sincerely,





Lamar Alexander

Susan M. Collins

John Thune

Lyndee Weaver

Thad Cochran

Tom Tillis

Tom Cotton

Joni K. Ernst

Jimmy Smith

Kelly A. Ayotte

Rand Paul

Shelley Moore Capito

Mike F. Lee

Ray Bennett

Paul A. Ryan

Mark

Bob Casey, Jr.

Michael B. Enzi

Richard Helber

John Hosen

Loy Anderson

John McAni

James McCallister

Loy Hsu

Tom Sum

Rob Antonen

Art Tucker

Kirsten Hillbrand

Jim & Kinch

Dan Cook

Ben Sasse

Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Tom Sulli

Bill Nelson

Joe Donnelly

Doug Cetera

Tom Udare

Jiff

John Cornyn

Dan Vitter

Mary Landrau

Gaspar

Amy Klobuchar

Angus King

Heidi Heitkamp

Jeanne Shaheen

M. Michael Bond

Clara Kim

Steve Daines

Tom Harkin

~~John~~

Chuck Grassley

John Boozman

Pat Roberts

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Ron Johnson

Jon Tester

Paul Manchillo

Brian Schatz

[Faint signature]