February 1, 2018

Seema Verma, MPH
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 445-G
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

We write to express our strong support for the Medicare Advantage program and the high-quality care it provides to nearly 19 million seniors and individuals with disabilities. With over 90 percent of beneficiaries reporting high satisfaction with Medicare Advantage, we encourage the Administration to further strengthen and enhance the Medicare Advantage program.

Medicare Advantage is improving health care for today’s seniors and building a strong foundation for tomorrow, as 10,000 new seniors become Medicare-eligible each day. Some examples of ways the Medicare Advantage program helps improve health care for seniors include the offering of individually-targeted programs to prevent falls, transportation to primary care visits, and in-home nursing visits.

Millions of our constituents depend on Medicare Advantage to provide comprehensive, affordable health care as they age. Medicare Advantage provides an affordable, high-quality option by including care coordination, disease management programs, out-of-pocket spending limits, access to community based programs, and additional supplemental benefits—such as vision and dental coverage, and often prescription drug coverage.

As the Administration looks at updates to Medicare Advantage for 2019, the program is well positioned to help improve the overall Medicare program by offering high-quality, efficient, patient-centered coverage options for beneficiaries. In order to preserve and extend Medicare Advantage’s positive impact on seniors’ health, we urge the agency to ensure that any changes that could significantly impact the program are proposed and considered in a manner that ensures comprehensive stakeholder engagement, robust transparency, and sufficient time for thorough evaluation. We believe this approach will best ensure our constituents continue to have access to innovative, high-quality Medicare Advantage plans.

We look forward to further strengthening and improving the Medicare Advantage program so that our constituents have access to comprehensive, affordable health coverage choices now and in the future.

Sincerely,

BRETT GUTHRIE
Member of Congress

EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress

ERIK PAULSEN
Member of Congress

TONY CARDENAS
Member of Congress
ROBERT A. BRADY  
Member of Congress

LOU BARLETTA  
Member of Congress

ROBERT J. WITTMAN  
Member of Congress

PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

YVETTE D. CLARKE  
Member of Congress

DAVID SCHWEIKERT  
Member of Congress

BILL SHUSTER  
Member of Congress

G.K. BUTTERFIELD  
Member of Congress

JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress

CHARLES W. DENT  
Member of Congress

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
Member of Congress

MIKE SIMPSON  
Member of Congress

VERN BUCHANAN  
Member of Congress

JOE BARTON  
Member of Congress

JOHN R. CARTER  
Member of Congress

DIANA DEGETTE  
Member of Congress

GUS M. BILIRAKIS  
Member of Congress

RICK LARSEN  
Member of Congress
MIMI WALTERS
Member of Congress

MIA B. LOVE
Member of Congress

SCOTT R. TIPTON
Member of Congress

ELIZABETH H. ESTY
Member of Congress

ALMA S. ADAMS, PH.D.
Member of Congress

TOM RICE
Member of Congress

DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress

DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress

JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress

BARBARA COMSTOCK
Member of Congress

JOHN H. ROTHERFORD
Member of Congress

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

ROBERT B. ADERHOLT
Member of Congress

TED LIEU
Member of Congress

VAL BUTLER DEMINGS
Member of Congress

MIKE DOYLE
Member of Congress

DAVID YOUNG
Member of Congress

A. DONALD MCEACHIN
Member of Congress
HENRY CUELLAR  
Member of Congress

STEVE KING  
Member of Congress

JOHN SHUMAUS  
Member of Congress

GREGG HATFIELD  
Member of Congress

JEB HENSARLING  
Member of Congress

JEFF DUNCAN  
Member of Congress

BLAINE LUETKEMEYER  
Member of Congress

BILL HUIZenga  
Member of Congress

PETE SESSIONS  
Member of Congress

VICKY HARTZLER  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

DAVID N. CICILLINE  
Member of Congress

ADAM KINZINGER  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

BETTY McCOLLUM  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress
FRENCH HILL  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

STEPHANIE MURPHY  
Member of Congress

CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS  
Member of Congress

DAN NEWHOUSE  
Member of Congress

RAUL RUIZ, M.D.  
Member of Congress

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN  
Member of Congress

BETO O’ROURKE  
Member of Congress

AL LAWSON JR.  
Member of Congress

ZOE LOFGREN  
Member of Congress

CARLOS CURBELO  
Member of Congress

ED PERLMUTTER  
Member of Congress

GREG GIANNForte  
Member of Congress

MARK POCAN  
Member of Congress

DARIN LAHOOD  
Member of Congress

ANDY BARR  
Member of Congress

DARREN SOTO  
Member of Congress

AMI BERA, M.D.  
Member of Congress