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

Dear Acting Administrator Slavitt:

We are writing to express our serious concerns about the preliminary decisions CMS recently announced about Medicare Advantage (MA) payment changes for 2016 that will impact the health care choices and benefits of more than 16 million seniors and individuals with disabilities.

The “Advance Notice” released on February 20 proposes additional cuts to 2016 payment rates on top of the nearly 10 percent cut that MA enrollees already have shouldered over the last two years. The newly proposed cuts could represent a significant threat to the health and financial security of seniors in our congressional districts who rely on their MA plans to meet their health care needs.

Approximately 550,000 MA enrollees lost their plans at the beginning of 2014, and another 570,000 lost their plans at the beginning of 2015. Beneficiaries in all 50 states have been impacted by these disruptions. We strongly believe that cuts to MA benefits would be deeply unfair to millions of our constituents who are counting on Congress and the Administration to stabilize this program.

Nationwide, more than 30 percent of Medicare beneficiaries have chosen to enroll in MA plans. These plans are popular with enrollees because of an emphasis on improving health outcomes through innovative programs that emphasize preventive care, offer care coordination and disease management to help manage chronic conditions, and promptly treat medical conditions before they advance to a more serious stage. We are concerned that further cuts to the MA program could undermine a coverage option that is critical to our nation’s Medicare beneficiaries, particularly those who have multiple chronic conditions and those with low incomes.
As CMS works to finalize 2016 payment rates, we strongly urge you to protect Medicare beneficiaries by reversing the proposed payment cuts and providing a stable policy environment for the MA program.

Sincerely,

Brett Guthrie

Patrick E. Murphy

Mike Kelly

Mario Diaz-Balart

Brad Wenstrup

Doug LaMalfa

John Shimkus

Renee Ellmers

Larry Bucshon

Leonard Lance

Tim Murphy

Devin Nunes

Corrine Brown

Mark Takai
Alice L. Hastings

Bill Johnson

H. Morgan Griffith

Ann McLane Kuster

David Scott

Jim Renacci

Sam Graves

David P. Joyce

Keith J. Rothfus

Phil Roe

Ann Kirkpatrick

Richard Hanna

Chris Collins

Bill Flores

Marsha Blackburn

Peter King

Brian Higgins

Erik Paulsen

Bill Shuster

Lynn Westmoreland
Andy Harris, M.D.

Alan Grayson

Patrick Meehan

Teresa Ros-Lehtinen

Carlos Curbelo

Pete Olson

Eric Swalwell

Jason Smith

Bob Gibbs

Kevin Cramer

Trent Franks

Lou Barletta

Vern Buchanan

Ann Wagner

Doug Lamborn

Ed Whitfield

Bradley Byrne

Robert Pittenger

Pat Tiberi

Mimi Walters
Charlie Dent

Alan Lowenthal

Daniel Webster

Mike Bost

J. Randy Forbes

Bobby Rush

Brian Babin

Jeb Hensarling

Ron Kind

John Kline

Jeff Miller

Mark Amodei

Matthew Cartwright

Kay Hagan

Sean Duffy

Barbara Comstock

Steve Chabot

Sean Patrick Maloney

Joe Heck

Jaime Herrera Beutler
Betty McCollum
Betty McCollum

Rob Woodall
Robert Hurt

Scott DesJarlais
Dan Kildee

Michael McCaul
Ryan Zinke

Elizabeth Esty
Blake Farenthold

Dan Benishek
Glenn 'GT' Thompson

Evan Jenkins
Stephen Fincher

Bruce Poliquin
Jody Hice

Pete Sessions
Elise Stefanik

Mac Thornberry
Diane Black