

BETTER MEDICARE
ALLIANCE

June 1, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

I am writing on behalf of the Better Medicare Alliance to express our opposition to the source of the budget offset used in the 21st Century Cures Act. While we support the Act's intention to increase investments in medical research and development of new drugs, devices and treatments, we oppose the method used to finance these new investments. Support of medical research should not come at the expense of innovation in health care delivery or access to the very cures potentially made possible by this research.

Simply shifting funds from Part D drug benefits to the 21st Century Cures Act neither reduces the cost of pharmaceuticals nor enhances seniors' access to life-saving medications. In fact, this action could make it more expensive for seniors to access the very cures that may result from these investments in research and development of new drugs. This is a harmful and unnecessary tradeoff between two important programs dedicated to improving health outcomes for seniors and those with disabilities who rely on Part D drug benefits.

We ask you to reconsider the use of delayed reinsurance payments to Medicare Part D drug plans as the proposed budget offset and replace it with other budget offsets that do not bring potential harm to the Medicare Part D drug benefits that are so critical to seniors and those with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Elena Rios, MD
President, National Hispanic Medical Association
Founding Member, Better Medicare Alliance