

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

RE: Comments Regarding 2019 Proposed Changes to Medicare Advantage

Dear Administrator Verma,

Six years ago, I retired from Kroger and enrolled in Anthem MediBlue Essential through my former employer. I am very concerned that the Administration is considering changes to the Medicare Advantage program. Retirees deserve to have their health care coverage protected.

I have diabetes and it can be burdensome to pay for medication. Thankfully, my Medicare Advantage Retiree Plan includes prescription drug coverage so I don't have to pay the full cost of my medication out-of-pocket. This brings relief to me and many other seniors struggling with chronic illnesses like diabetes. Our coverage will be even better when the doughnut hole closes next year. Overall, I can say that my Anthem MediBlue Essential plan meets my needs as a retiree.

Although I mostly use my Medicare Advantage plan for doctor visits and prescription drugs, I am aware that it includes other benefits. My plan includes access to Silver Sneakers, dental, hearing and vision benefits.

Millions of seniors rely on retiree coverage and can't afford to have it changed. I hope the Administration will value the stories shared by seniors like me and avoid making changes to Medicare Advantage Retiree Plans that could result in more costs for seniors.

Sincerely,

Mike Fields
10620 West Road
Harrison, OH 45030