

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,

As a retired person living on a fixed income with multiple chronic conditions, I'm concerned that the Administration's proposed cuts to Medicare Advantage retiree coverage would put the health benefits I've depended on for quality care for the past 15 years at risk.

As a former paralegal in the real estate industry, my transition to Medicare Advantage was easy. I receive coverage now through the same health insurance company as I did when I was employed and my doctors have largely stayed the same. This has been immensely helpful because in addition to my primary care doctor, I regularly see specialists for a number of other health conditions include ongoing thyroid issues, gout, anxiety, lower back pain, and drop foot. I chose to enroll in a Medicare Advantage retiree plan rather than a traditional Medicare plan knowing I would have access to the same physicians who are familiar with my case and who I know and trust.

Medicare Advantage has made it possible to manage my expenses on a fixed income which I receive through monthly social security checks. The majority of my prescriptions are just \$3.00 for a three-month supply and my Medicare Advantage plan covers nearly all of my monthly premium.

As a senior who relies on Medicare Advantage and all the critical benefits it provides, I want to know that our policymakers in Washington are committed to ensuring affordable, comprehensive care for retirees.

Retirees like myself simply cannot afford to lose access to the important benefits provided under Medicare Advantage.

Sincerely,

Paula Jack  
921 Robin Road  
Amherst, NY 14228