



Southern Nevada Building Trades Union Affiliated with the North America Building Trades Unions

Rick Johnson-President
Vince Saavedra - Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: CMS-4203-NC
P.O. Box 8013, Baltimore, MD 21244-8013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today on behalf of the Southern Nevada Building Trades Unions to encourage the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to support the vitally important Medicare Advantage program. CMS must strengthen the program to ensure the robust services it offers to meet the health needs of millions of seniors remain. Medicare Advantage allows health care providers to deliver much-needed care to both Medicare Advantage and Fee-For-Service (FFS) Medicare beneficiaries every single day – including thousands of retirees across Nevada.

The Southern Nevada Building Trades Unions are keenly aware of the importance of health programs like Medicare Advantage, especially given the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Aside from providing essential services to seniors and retirees – including telehealth, vaccinations, meal delivery, and other preventative care – Medicare Advantage has been a lifeline for the men and women who build Nevada and contribute significantly to the state's economy.

It's simple: the men and women who make our state more economically vigorous deserve programs like Medicare Advantage, an economically feasible alternative to traditional FFS Medicare. This program offers seniors and retirees a range of critically important services and care not provided in traditional FFS Medicare. The average Medicare Advantage beneficiary saves upwards of \$2,000 a year in costs compared to Traditional Medicare. It's no wonder Medicare Advantage is often a more attractive option. This is especially important to retirees on a fixed income. Having this piece of mind in retirement is crucial to attaining a higher quality of life.

As an affiliate of the North America Building Trades, we fight daily for our members and their families to enjoy a quality life that protects their health and financial stability.

These benefits offered by Medicare Advantage (and so much more) are why CMS must continue strengthening this program and ensuring it is well positioned for long-term success. Providing meaningful oversight, rigorous transparency, and coordinated reforms would help health care providers, unions, and community associations better care for patients and members while assuring current beneficiaries' long-term stability.

Should CMS adopt these critically needed changes, Medicare Advantage health care providers in Nevada will continue to provide high-quality care to the many thousands of beneficiaries across our state alone. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vince Saavedra', is written over a white background.

Vince Saavedra, Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Southern Nevada Building Trades Unions