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 to you today to urge you to protect an important program that benefits the lives of millions of seniors across the country — Medicare Advantage. It is critical that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) strengthen the program to ensure its growth and success so Medicare beneficiaries can continue to access the comprehensive and affordable health care plans that they've grown to benefit from and rely on.

Throughout my entire career in the health care industry, which includes the creation and launch of the Medicare Advantage (Part C) option via the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, I can attest to the importance of this program for its beneficiaries here in the Grand Canyon State. Medicare Advantage provides comprehensive coverage through a public-private partnership to more than 666,000 Arizonans.

An overwhelming proportion of these beneficiaries are satisfied with their coverage, partially due to their notable average savings of <u>\$2,000</u> compared to their counterparts enrolled in Fee-For-Service Medicare. These valuable savings would not be possible without Medicare Advantage.

Additionally, Medicare Advantage plans provide these savings by partnering with local providers across the country to provide the best care to beneficiaries at a more affordable cost than Medicare. These partnerships have demonstrated an improvement in health outcomes for patients because Medicare Advantage allows for more personalized treatment. As of 2022, choices for beneficiaries continue to expand, while premiums continue to decline. This is why it is important that the CMS continues to protect Medicare Advantage for the seniors that see this program as the most preferable option for their own healthcare.

During the last two years especially, I have witnessed an increase of seniors moving to Arizona and with this increasing population, it is incredibly important that these new Arizonans can continue to access the quality of health care that they became accustomed to in their previous home state. It is my opinion that this program greatly benefits our state and our country, and I strongly urge you to take action to protect, strengthen and evolve Medicare Advantage so that it can continue to provide seniors with the health care options they want and deserve.

Sincerely,

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Christine Maroulis