

August 31, 2022

Ms. Chiquita Brooks-LaSure  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

**RE: CMS-4203-NC – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Program:  
Request for Information on Medicare Advantage**

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure,

The North Carolina Black Alliance addresses policy and economic issues to enhance Black communities. We believe every American should have access to healthcare in time of injury or illness.

The Medicare Advantage program helps increase access to care for diverse populations. A recent study found that Medicare Advantage beneficiaries across all racial and ethnic groups spend less each year on out-of-pocket costs and premiums than those covered under Fee-for-Service (FFS) Medicare. For example, Black Medicare Advantage beneficiaries spend an average of \$1,104 less than FFS beneficiaries.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, nearly 50% of Black beneficiaries choose to enroll in Medicare Advantage.<sup>2</sup>

Medicare Advantage provides affordable, high-quality, patient-centered coverage seniors rely on. We support the Biden Administration's prioritization of health equity, and we hope that CMS will protect Medicare Advantage.

Sincerely,

Karida Giddings  
Access to Healthcare Program Coordinator  
North Carolina Black Alliance

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<sup>1</sup> Better Medicare Alliance, [Medicare Advantage Outperforms Fee-For-Service Medicare on Cost Protections for Low-Income and Diverse Populations](#), April 2022

<sup>2</sup> Better Medicare Alliance, Medicare Advantage Offers High Quality Care and Cost Protections to Racially and Ethnically Diverse Beneficiaries, June 2021. Available at: [https://bettermedicarealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/BMA\\_2021-Q2-Data-Brief\\_6.15.21.pdf](https://bettermedicarealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/BMA_2021-Q2-Data-Brief_6.15.21.pdf)