

August 30, 2022

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

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

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

The Nevada Hispanic Legislative Caucus is dedicated to voicing and advancing, through the legislative process, issues affecting Latinx in Nevada for the purpose of increasing access and parity for all Nevadans.

In Nevada, more than 260,000 seniors are enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans, which is 46% of eligible beneficiaries. Medicare Advantage is an important health care option for seniors in the Hispanic community. More than 53% of Latinx beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicare Advantage and they spend \$1,000 less annually compared to beneficiaries enrolled in traditional Medicare.

Medicare Advantage is also working to address Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) by incorporating innovative and enhanced benefits into plan offerings. For example, by supporting affordable housing and providing meals and nutrition support.³ Medicare Advantage beneficiaries also have access to additional benefits not available in traditional Medicare, including dental, vision, and hearing, as well as fitness or wellness benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Medicare Advantage program.

Sincerely,

Selena Torres Assembly District 3

Chair

Nevada Hispanic Legislative Caucus

Mo Denis Senate District 2 Vice-Chair

Nevada Hispanic Legislative Caucus

Susie Martinez Assembly District 12 Treasurer/Secretary

Nevada Hispanic Legislative Caucus

Fabian Donate Senate District 10 Dina Neal Senate District 4 Edgar Flores Assembly District 28

Sandra Jauregui Assembly District 41 Bea Duran Assembly District 21 Elaine Marzloa Assembly District 21

Cecelia Gonzalez Assembly District 16

¹ Better Medicare Alliance, Medicare Advantage Enrollment Map, 2021 (Link)

² Better Medicare Alliance, Report: Half of Latinx, Black Medicare Beneficiaries Choose Medicare Advantage, June 2021 (Link)

³ NORC at the University of Chicago, Case Study Report: Innovative Approaches to Addressing Social Determinants of Health for Medicare Advantage Beneficiaries, January 2022 (<u>Link</u>)