



August 31, 2022

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; Request for Information on Medicare Program (Medicare Advantage)

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on *CMS-4203-NC; Request for Information on Medicare Program (Medicare Advantage)*. As Director of Regulatory Affairs of the Ohio Association of Health Plans (OAHP), I am writing today to share my members' support for the Medicare Advantage program.

OAHP is the state's leading trade association representing the health insurance industry. Our member plans provide health benefits to more than 9 million Ohioans through employer-sponsored coverage, the individual insurance market, and public programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and the Federal Insurance Marketplace. Our members offer a broad range of health insurance products to Ohioans in the commercial marketplace and are committed partners in public programs.

OAHP's member health plans offer valuable health care coverage options to more than nine million Ohioans through employer or individually purchased insurance, Medicare Advantage, Medicaid managed care, and the Health Insurance Marketplace. Our plans strive to meet the changing needs of today's health care consumer by providing health care coverage through a variety of products.

When it comes to meeting the needs of Ohio's seniors, Medicare Advantage offers a more affordable, accessible, and high-quality option. Medicare Advantage beneficiaries report spending an estimated \$2,000 less¹ on out-of-pocket costs and premiums compared to Fee-for-Service (FFS) Medicare beneficiaries. In 2022, the average monthly premium for a Medicare Advantage Plan in Ohio is \$18.75, a decrease from \$20.18 in 2021.²

More Ohioans are choosing Medicare Advantage plans because the plans offer more value for every dollar spent compared to Fee-for-Service Medicare plans, including innovative benefits, such as wellness and health care planning, reduced cost-sharing, and rewards and incentives programs. Additionally, a recent survey conducted nationally found that 94%³ of all Medicare Advantage beneficiaries are satisfied with their coverage.

¹ Better Medicare Alliance, Medicare Advantage Outperforms FFS Medicare on Cost Protections for Low-Income and Diverse Populations, https://bettermedicarealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/BMA-Medicare-Advantage-Cost-Protections-Data-Brief_FINv2.pdf

² Medicare Plans Patient Resource Center, <https://www.medicareplans.com/medicare-advantage-plans-ohio/#understand-medicare-part-c-in-ohio>

³ Morning Consult, Annual Seniors on Medicare Survey, https://bettermedicarealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BMA_Seniors-on-Medicare-Memo_final3.pdf

On behalf of the health plans operating in Ohio and supporting Ohio residents, I encourage you to protect the Medicare Advantage program. If you have any questions or would like to speak with us further on this topic, please reach out to us at aweaver@oahp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Weaver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Weaver
Director of Regulatory Affairs
Ohio Association of Health Plans