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A Principled Approach
to Public Policy

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August 31, 2022

The Honorable 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

Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on Medicare Advantage as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to seek to ensure the program provides high-quality, cost-effective care.

As a leading state-based think tank, the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute (TCCRI) is devoted to shaping public policy – including healthcare policy – through a principled approach to government. We established the TCCRI TX Healthcare Project to address the most critical issue facing healthcare today: the ability to access care at affordable prices.¹ The guiding principles of this work are **Affordability, Accessibility, and Accountability** and we truly believe in the free-market tenet that when transparency and competition are allowed to flourish, prices decrease and quality increases.

We support Medicare Advantage as a leading example of government harnessing the private sector's innovation and ability to support Texans by increasing healthcare quality and access while lowering costs. More than 2.1 million Texans are currently enrolled in Medicare Advantage, representing nearly half of all those eligible for Medicare coverage.² Medicare Advantage plans, which offer enhanced benefits at high value, are understandably popular, and in fact, 94% of Medicare Advantage beneficiaries report being satisfied with their care.³

Medicare Advantage is also an affordable coverage option for seniors. A recent study found that Medicare Advantage beneficiaries spend nearly \$2,000 less on out-of-pocket costs and premiums compared to those enrolled in Fee-For-Service Medicare.⁴

Given the benefits of Medicare Advantage plans to seniors in our state, it is our hope that they will remain widely accessible and free of unnecessary and burdensome government regulations. Thank you for the opportunity to share TCCRI's perspectives. If you have any questions, please contact me at 512-474-6042 or via email at tom@txccri.org.

Sincerely,

Tom Aldred
Executive Director
Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute