

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

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure,

The State Chamber of Oklahoma submits these comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in response to a request for information (RFI) on the Medicare Advantage program.

The Chamber represents a variety of Oklahoma businesses and industries across our great state. Its members include sole proprietors, small and large businesses, other chambers of commerce and like-minded associations seeking to grow the state's economy. Since 1926, the Chamber has functioned as a non-partisan organization that helps create an environment of opportunities and job growth in Oklahoma.

More than 460,000 Oklahomans¹ are enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans, which offer comprehensive, high-quality, affordable health care. Medicare Advantage beneficiaries report spending nearly \$2,000 less on out-of-pocket costs and premiums compared to those enrolled in traditional Medicare.² Medicare Advantage offers Oklahoma seniors valuable services that go beyond traditional medical care, including vision, dental, hearing as well as enhanced telehealth services.

Ensuring these plans are widely accessible is a priority for the Chamber. When public-private partnerships are a success, like Medicare Advantage, it proves that business and government collaboration creates innovative options. We urge CMS to protect this vital health care option for Oklahoma's seniors and retirees.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on this important program. Should you request additional information, please contact me at ecrouch@okstatechamber.com.

Sincerely,



Emily Crouch
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
The State Chamber of Oklahoma

¹ Better Medicare Alliance, Medicare Advantage Enrollment Map. <https://bettermedicarealliance.org/medicare-advantage/about-medicare-advantage/medicare-advantage-enrollment-map/>

² Better Medicare Alliance, Medicare Advantage Outperforms FFS Medicare on Cost Protections for Low-Income and Diverse Populations, April 2022. https://bettermedicarealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/BMA-Medicare-Advantage-Cost-Protections-Data-Brief_FINv2.pdf