



phone 804-648-8466 · address 1111 East Main Street, Suite 910, Richmond, VA 23219
email: info@vahp.org · website: www.vahp.org

August 31, 2022

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on *CMS-4203-NC: Request for Information on Medicare Program (Medicare Advantage)*. As the Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Health Plans (VAHP), I am writing today to express my members' support for the Medicare Advantage program.

VAHP's member health plans offer valuable health care coverage options to an estimated 8 million Virginians through employer or individually purchased insurance, Medicare Advantage, Medicaid managed care and the Health Insurance Marketplace. Our member plans offer a variety of options for employers, the commonwealth, and individuals to receive their health care coverage.

Over 500,000 seniors in Virginia are enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans.¹ These plans offer seniors an affordable and high-quality option compared to Medicare fee-for-service. First, plan affordability helps ensure a diverse group of low-income seniors have access to coverage. For example, in 2022 the average monthly premium for a Medicare Advantage plan in Virginia was \$16.15.² Second, many of these Medicare Advantage members are enrolled in Medicare Advantage prescription drug plans. This assists health plans in improving care through coordination and management of medical and drugs benefits for enrollees. Finally, 43 Virginia Medicare Advantage plans are offering innovative benefits such as wellness and health care planning, reduced cost-sharing, and review and incentive programs in 2022³. These tools add value for each dollar seniors spend on their health care compared to Medicare fee-for-service.

A recent national survey indicates that 94% of Medicare Advantage beneficiaries are satisfied with their coverage. Our member health plans encourage you to protect this valuable, high-quality program for Virginians.

Best regards,

Doug Gray
Executive Director

¹ Better Medicare Alliance. Medicare Advantage Enrollment Map, [Medicare Advantage Enrollment Map - Better Medicare Alliance](#).

² Medicare Plans Patient Resource Center. Medicare Advantage Plans in Virginia, [Medicare Advantage Plans In Virginia | Medicare Plans](#)

³ Medicare Plans Patient Resource Center. Medicare Advantage Plans in Virginia, [Medicare Advantage Plans In Virginia | Medicare Plans](#)