

BETTER MEDICARE ALLIANCE

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Protecting Medicare Advantage Beneficiaries from Policies that Reduce Access to Affordable Care

Members of Congress,

On behalf of 63 organizations representing providers, community organizations, employers, health plans, and advocates serving millions of Medicare Advantage beneficiaries, we urge Congress to protect Medicare Advantage and ensure that any policies affecting the program are made in a deliberate, transparent process that fully considers their impact on America's seniors.

Over 55% of Medicare beneficiaries—more than 35 million Americans nationwide—choose Medicare Advantage because it delivers comprehensive, affordable care at a lower cost than Fee-For-Service Medicare.¹ At a time of rising health care costs, Medicare Advantage saves beneficiaries more than \$3,400 annually² while improving management of chronic conditions and offering supplemental benefits that traditional Medicare does not.

The success of Medicare Advantage is the result of focused work to align incentives, coordinate care, and prioritize prevention. Yet some legislative proposals under consideration, including the *No UPCODE Act* as introduced, would jeopardize this progress—reducing care coordination, cutting in-home Health Risk Assessments (HRAs), and jeopardizing the benefits seniors depend on.³

In-home HRAs are a crucial link that help clinicians identify seniors' unmet needs and keep them healthy. For many low-income, rural, or homebound beneficiaries, these visits are their only access point to care. Curtailing HRAs would increase avoidable hospitalizations, cut preventative care, and compromise the independence of seniors across the country.

We also ask Congressional leaders to work closely with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to safeguard the care coordination and assessments at the foundation of Medicare Advantage's success. It is essential for CMS to ensure that regulatory and budgetary changes to Medicare Advantage do not inadvertently weaken the services that keep seniors healthy.

We urge Congress to:

- **Protect Medicare Advantage beneficiaries** from funding cuts and policies that would undermine affordability, access, and benefits.
- **Reject** proposals that would reduce care coordination, limit preventive services, or disrupt in-home Health Risk Assessments.
- **Ensure** that all Medicare Advantage policy changes are developed under regular order and take into consideration solutions from stakeholders and beneficiary advocates.

Better Medicare Alliance and our community of allies are focused on modernizations that would strengthen Medicare Advantage while protecting access to care. There are important opportunities to streamline prior authorization, ensure provider directory accuracy, strengthen accountability for in-home HRAs—including standardizing clinical guidelines and promoting enhanced coordination with primary care providers—and examine better cost comparisons between Medicare Advantage and Fee-for-Service Medicare. We thank Congress for its efforts to enhance Medicare Advantage and look forward to continuing this important work together.

Seniors choose Medicare Advantage because it works. Congress must build on this progress by rejecting policies that put seniors at risk and protecting the program for the millions who depend on it.

Sincerely,

Better Medicare Alliance

agilon health

America's Physician Groups

Arizona Nurses Association

Associated Industries of Missouri

A-Team Grassroots System

Austin Regional Clinic

Blue Genes Lab

Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce

Claris Health

Community Servings

El Paso Health

evolvedMD

Faith Alive Senior Ministries

Health Agents for America

Healthcare Leadership Council

HealthCAWS

Hearing Loss Association of America

International Council on Active Aging

JustWell Health

Kansas Employers for Affordable Healthcare

Kansas Independent Business Association

Kentucky Association of Health Plans

lark health

Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce

MapHabit

Matrix Medical Network

Medicaid and Medicare Advantage Programs Association of Puerto Rico

MediGold

Millstadt Family Chiropractic

Missouri Retailers Association

National Adult Day Services Association

National Association of Hispanic Nurses

National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs

National Black Nurses Association
National Hispanic Health Foundation
National Medical Association
National Patient Advocate Foundation
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey State Nurses Association
NEXUS Cardiac Rehabilitation
North East Medical Services
North Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Northern Nevada Network
Partners in Care Foundation
Jacobs and Crabtree Doctors of Optometry
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging
Population Health Alliance
Quote Velocity
Sensorum Health
Special Needs Plan Alliance
Stanly County Senior Center
Stanly County YMCA
The Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups
The Medicare Specialists
The Midwest Council
USAging

Vancouver Clinic

Vipercare Insurance Services

Vivo

VNS Health

Well Fed

YMCA of Southern Nevada

¹ Better Medicare Alliance, Key Facts: State of Medicare Advantage 2025. Available at: <https://bettermedicarealliance.org/publication/key-facts-state-of-medicare-advantage-2025/>

² Better Medicare Alliance, Medicare Beneficiary Spending 2025. Available at: <https://bettermedicarealliance.org/publication/medicare-beneficiary-spending-2025/>

³ Berkeley Research Group, Estimated Impact to MA Plan Rebates and Payments from the No UP CODE Act. Available at: <https://www.thinkbrg.com/insights/publications/estimated-impact-to-ma-plan-rebates-and-payments-from-the-no-upcode-act/>