



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

February 13, 2014

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express deep concern about the impact of the cuts imposed by your health care law on the Medicare Advantage (MA) program and the recent action by CMS to fundamentally dismantle the Medicare prescription drug program. These cuts, in addition to proposed rules issued by CMS, will force millions of American seniors to face higher health care costs or lose access to their doctor, health plan, lifesaving drugs, and the benefits they've come to rely on.

This comes at a time when millions of other Americans have already lost their health plans as a result of your law. Anger among the American people about the law has already escalated to unprecedented levels as a result of the harmful effects of the first few months of its implementation, and the worst parts of the law, including these consequences for our nation's seniors, are beginning to have a devastating impact.

Medicare Advantage offers flexible, affordable, and modern health care solutions to more than 15 million Americans (nearly 30 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries), including seniors with low incomes, individuals with multiple chronic conditions, and Americans living in rural areas. The program is a critical source of comprehensive medical coverage, delivering many services that are unavailable to other beneficiaries in fee-for-service Medicare. That is why it is so popular with American seniors.

In fact, your own Actuaries report that more than half of all new seniors in 2012 selected a Medicare Advantage plan. The Medicare prescription drug program has outperformed expectations by increasing seniors' prescription drug plan options while simultaneously and dramatically reducing costs for an estimated 70 percent of Medicare beneficiaries. Such remarkable outcomes are possible because officials in Washington are prohibited by law from interfering in plan design and setting prices.


Now is not the time to shortchange seniors' choices. During debate over your health care law, the American people were promised that if they liked their health plan they could keep it, a claim that has proved false for millions of working families. Now we know that those broken promises extend to our senior citizens.


Last year, your administration began imposing deep cuts to MA resulting in seniors being told

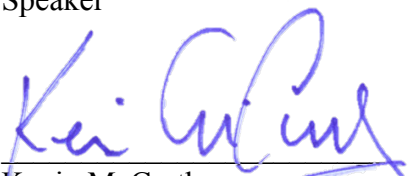
they cannot keep the benefits they had, the plan they relied on, and the doctors they trust. This year, we understand that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) may be poised to announce similar cuts to MA for 2015. CMS also recently announced its plans to further limit the choices of American seniors in a 700-page proposed rule issued on January 6, 2014. This rule is clearly inconsistent with the plain letter of the law and contradicts previous agency findings. It will only further decrease access, quality and choice for seniors on top of the cuts that have already gone into effect.

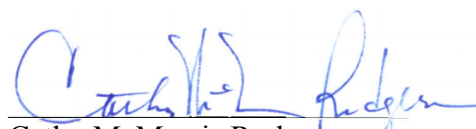
Your health care law will continue to destroy the options available to our seniors unless you intervene. If you will not work with us to repeal the law and enact better solutions, we urge you to instruct Secretary Sebelius to develop a plan to address the devastating impact of these cuts, ensuring – at a minimum – that seniors will not experience further disruptions in 2015. We look forward to your response.

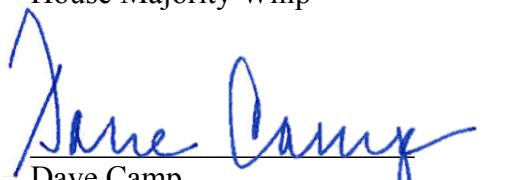
Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John A. Boehner  
Speaker

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Cantor  
House Majority Leader

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin McCarthy  
House Majority Whip

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
House Republican Conference Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Camp  
Chairman, Ways & Means Committee

  
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Fred Upton  
Chairman, Energy & Commerce Committee