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February 2, 2024

Dear U.S. House staff,

Two letters regarding the Medicare Advantage (MA) program are currently circulating through the House of Representatives. One [letter](#) accurately describes the need for deep reforms in the MA program, and the importance of strengthening and supporting traditional Medicare. The other [letter](#), written in support of MA and the insurance industry, is deeply flawed and misses the mark on many key issues with the program.

We ask you to urge Representatives to sign the letter calling for reforms in MA, and to reject the letter endorsing the insurance industry's status quo.

The pro-industry letter's claims of high-quality and affordable care for diverse populations in MA belie considerable evidence showing that those with complex or chronic illnesses, especially [cancer](#), suffer in the program, and that Hispanic and Black beneficiaries in MA report [far more cost-related problems](#) accessing care when compared to those in traditional Medicare. The letter also ignores the egregious scale of overpayments in the program, which are potentially as high as [\\$140 billion per year](#) - more than it would cost to provide hearing, vision, and dental benefits to everyone with Medicare and everyone with Medicaid.

Whatever your views on health policy, hopefully we all agree that Medicare is a vital public health program with a decades-long record of improving the health of seniors and people with disabilities. It is a program we must cherish and protect. MA is bad for patients, bad for taxpayers, and bad for Medicare - it needs reform, not unconditional support.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions, or for further information.

Best regards,

Philip Verhoef, M.D., Ph.D.  
President, Physicians for a National Health Program