

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2015

Andy Slavitt
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Acting Administrator Slavitt:

As members of the California congressional delegation, we are writing to request that you withdraw the payment cuts CMS has proposed for the Medicare Advantage (MA) program for 2016.

California has more than 2.2 million MA enrollees, accounting for 40 percent of our overall Medicare population. This level of MA enrollment, which is significantly higher than the national average of 30 percent, can be attributed in large measure to our state's leadership in advancing delivery system reforms to improve health care quality for Medicare beneficiaries. MA plans in California have a long track record in developing systems of coordinated care, disease management services, and other innovative programs to prevent illness, manage chronic conditions, and improve the health status of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

We are deeply concerned that the MA payment cuts proposed for 2016, if implemented, would undermine access to the high quality coverage options that are available to beneficiaries through the MA program. A new study by Oliver Wyman estimates that MA payment cuts already imposed over the past two years, combined with the proposed cuts for 2016, could leave MA enrollees in California facing higher costs and reduced benefits with an average impact of more than \$120 per month. Recognizing that more than a third of seniors covered in the MA program are financially vulnerable with incomes below \$20,000, we believe this outcome would be unacceptable. For that reason, we strongly urge you to consider withdrawing the cuts the agency has proposed for 2016.

Thank you for considering our serious concerns on this critically important issue.

Sincerely,



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress