

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 30, 2023

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 445-G
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

We write to express our bipartisan support for the Medicare Advantage program and the high-quality care it provides to nearly 30 million older adults and individuals with disabilities.¹ The number of Americans who choose Medicare Advantage continues to grow each year, with enrollment doubling over the last decade, resulting in Medicare Advantage serving nearly 50 percent of individuals eligible for Medicare. We appreciate your ongoing commitment to preserving and strengthening this critical choice for current and future Medicare beneficiaries. As the Administration considers updates to the program for plan year 2024, we urge you to ensure that any proposed payment and policy changes enable Medicare Advantage to continue providing the affordable, high-quality care our constituents rely on every day.

Medicare Advantage offers affordable coverage, with beneficiaries reporting spending nearly \$2,000 less on out-of-pocket costs and premiums annually compared to fee-for-service Medicare.² In 2023, average Medicare Advantage premiums will fall to a 16-year low of \$18 per month and beneficiaries will have access to vital financial protections, including out-of-pocket spending limits and often prescription drug coverage for no additional premium.³ With 53 percent of Medicare Advantage enrollees living on less than \$25,000 per year⁴, combined with increasing pressures on Americans' budgets, it is critical that older adults and individuals with disabilities continue to have stable access to these cost protections that are only available in Medicare Advantage.

The Medicare Advantage program allows for plans to focus on prevention and care coordination, which results in better health outcomes. Additionally, the program supports an increasingly diverse population with varied health and socioeconomic backgrounds. In addition, the design of the Medicare Advantage program enables plans to address health-related social needs of such populations like food insecurity or lack of transportation, enhance the focus on primary care, and provide access to telehealth services and in-home care.

Looking to the future, we believe every Medicare beneficiary should receive clear, accurate, and timely information about their coverage options. We support robust oversight and regulation of advertising

¹ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). (November 2022). *Monthly Contract and Enrollment Summary Report*. <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/MCRAAdvPartDENrolData/Monthly-Contract-and-Enrollment-Summary-Report>

² ATI Advisory. (April 2022). *Medicare Advantage Outperforms Fee-For-Service Medicare on Cost Protections for Low-Income and Diverse Populations*. <https://atiadvisory.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/BMA-Medicare-Advantage-Cost-Protections-Data-Brief.pdf>

³ CMS. (September 29, 2022). *Biden-Harris Administration Announces Lower Premiums for Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans in 2023*. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-lower-premiums-medicare-advantage-and-prescription-drug-plans>

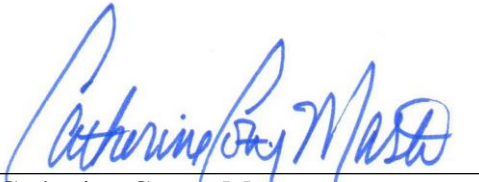
⁴ ATI Advisory. *Medicare Advantage Outperforms Fee-For-Service Medicare*.

and marketing practices in Medicare Advantage, and building on new rules that went into effect for the 2023 open enrollment period, we urge CMS to continue to enforce stronger oversight of third-party marketing organizations. We also urge CMS to look at meaningful ways to continue to sustain and strengthen Medicare Advantage that protects beneficiaries’ affordability and access and builds on the unique attributes of Medicare Advantage.

We are committed to our nearly 30 million constituents across the United States who rely on Medicare Advantage, and to maintaining access to the affordable, high-quality care they currently receive. We ask that the Administration provide a stable rate and policy environment for Medicare Advantage that will strengthen and ensure the long-term sustainability of the program—protecting access to its important benefits on which our constituents have come to rely.

We look forward to partnering with you to ensure that, through Medicare Advantage, tens of millions of older adults and individuals with disabilities continue to have access to comprehensive, affordable Medicare coverage choices.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



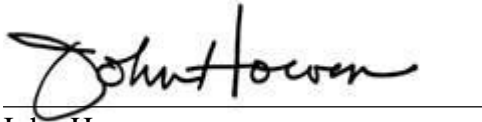
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



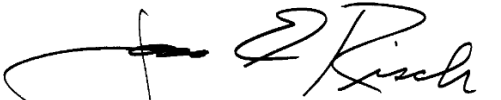
Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Mitt Romney
United States Senator



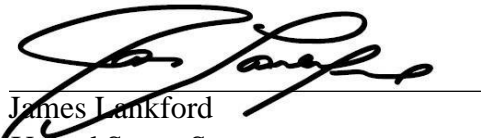
Todd Young
United States Senator



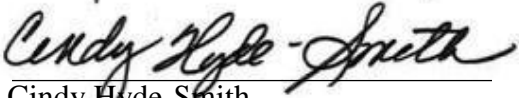
Ron Johnson
United States Senator



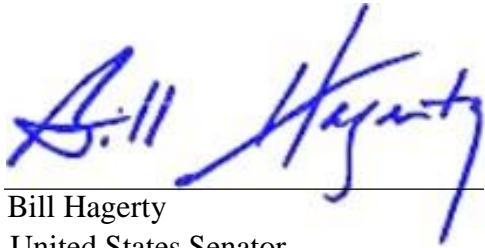
Tom Cotton
United States Senator



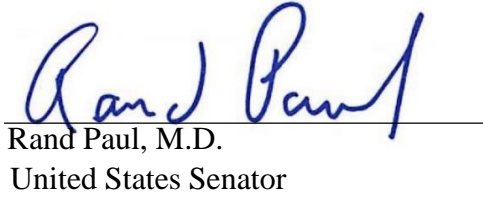
James Lankford
United States Senator



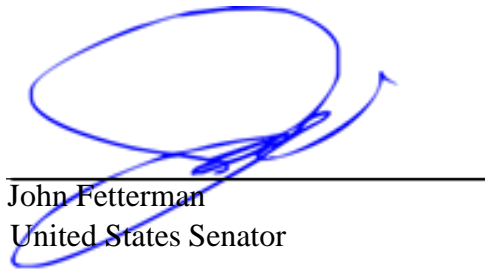
Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



Rand Paul, M.D.
United States Senator



John Fetterman
United States Senator



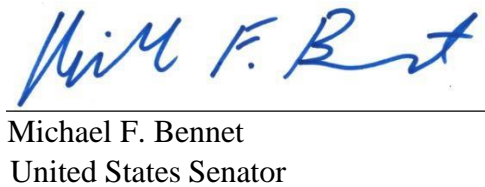
Ted Cruz
United States Senator



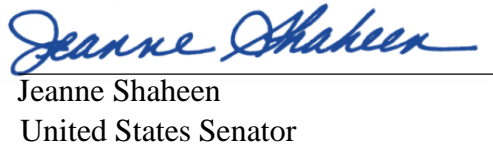
Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



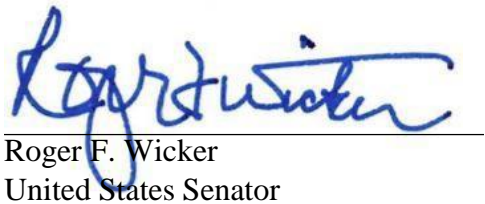
Ted Budd
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Markwayne Mullin
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



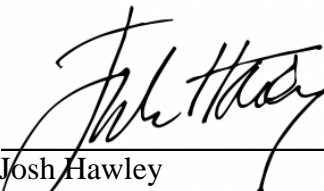
Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator



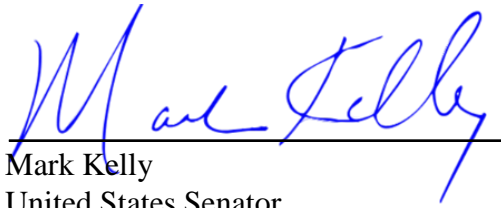
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



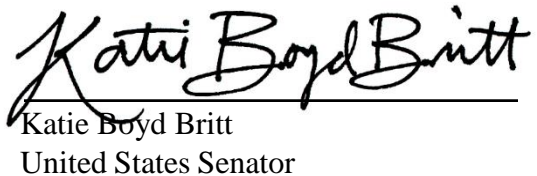
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



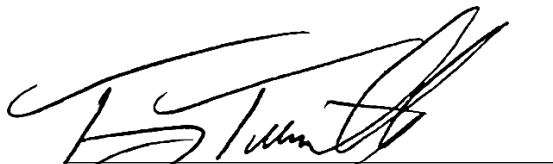
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



John Kennedy
United States Senator



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



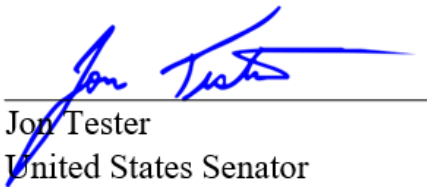
JD Vance
United States Senator




Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Eric Schmitt
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



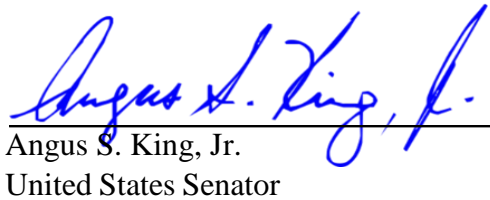
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



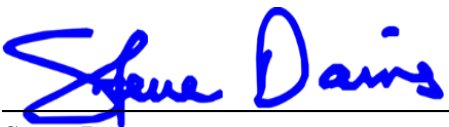
Rick Scott
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



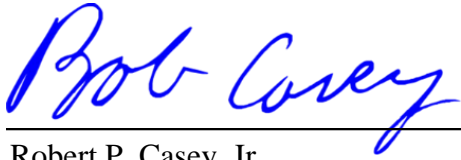
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



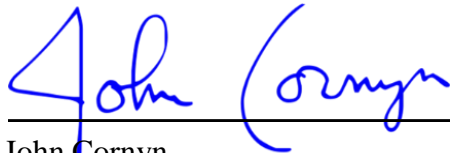
Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator