

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia M. Burwell
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Madam Secretary:

We are writing to express our deep concerns regarding the proposed reduction to Medicare Advantage (MA) Retiree Coverage (also referred to as Employer Group Waiver Plans) included in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) 2017 Advance Notice. In Michigan alone, there are over 300,000 retirees including labor union, state and local government, and private employer retirees who rely on Medicare Advantage Retiree Coverage. This proposed reduction would jeopardize the high quality health care that they depend on for their health and financial security. **We urge you to ensure that these seniors maintain their retirement certainty and avoid disruption by stopping this proposed reduction to MA Retiree Coverage in the 2017 Final Notice.**

The proposal in the 2017 Advance notice would cut payments to MA Retiree Coverage by 3-4%. This would inevitably translate into higher out-of-pocket costs and reduced benefits for retirees. Additionally, the proposal would greatly shorten the period of time that plan sponsors have to communicate with retirees regarding the benefit options available to them, and thus would compromise the ability of retirees to make informed decisions on their coverage. Also, because of the cut in payments and difficulty in meeting obligations to communicate with retirees, some plan sponsors might leave Medicare Advantage, thereby diminishing the quality of care available to retirees.

Not just in Michigan, but throughout the entire country, MA Retiree Coverage delivers proven care coordination and disease management activities, as well as comprehensive drug benefits that significantly reduce out-of-pocket costs for the most vulnerable retirees, and includes essential broad provider networks that ensure retirees have access to providers, even in the most rural areas.

If the proposal in the 2017 Advance Notice is implemented, these retirees would experience significant disruption in their coverage, including reduced access to health care options and services, fewer choices of providers and unexpected additional out-of-pocket costs.

It is critical that the 3.3 million seniors throughout the country with MA Retiree Coverage continue to have access to high quality, affordable, and coordinated health care options available through this option. We ask that you stop the proposed reductions to MA Retiree Coverage and preserve the healthcare security of these retirees by supporting the innovative and high quality care offered by this important program.

Sincerely,



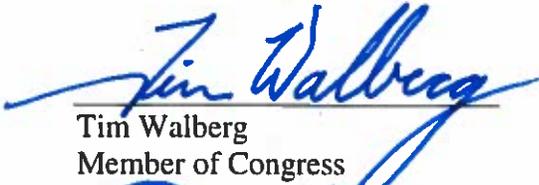
Michael D. Bishop
Member of Congress



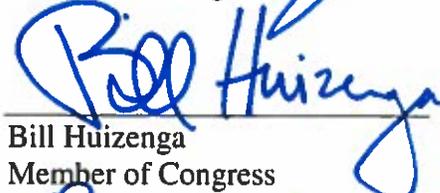
Fred Upton
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



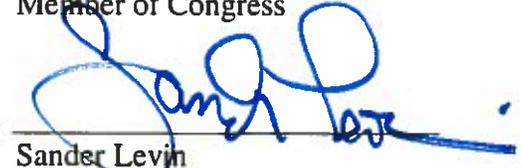
Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek M.D.
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Candice Miller
Member of Congress



Dave Trott
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress