



Providing quality coverage to nearly 3 million Medicaid and private sector enrollees in Wisconsin.

To: Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health & Human Services
From: R.J. Pirlot, Executive Director
Date: March 1, 2023
Re: Medicare Advantage

I am writing to you on behalf of the Wisconsin Alliance of Health Insurers (AHI) to strongly urge you to reconsider the [drastic cuts to](#) Medicare Advantage proposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. If the administration approves these cuts, over [608,000 Medicare Advantage beneficiaries](#) in Wisconsin alone will experience major premium increases and a loss of many of the important services they've grown to rely on.

AHI member companies employ more than 16,000 people in Wisconsin and provide health care coverage to roughly two and a half million residents in the private health insurance market. In addition, AHI member companies cover one million lives in Wisconsin's Medical Assistance programs, including two-thirds of BadgerCare and 80% of SSI participants.

Many of our members' covered lives are Medicare Advantage beneficiaries. We support policies such as Medicare Advantage which make health care more sustainable and affordable for all Wisconsin residents. Medicare Advantage has seen a [strong increase](#) in enrollees over the last few years while continuing to provide lower health care costs. In fact, next year, Medicare Advantage enrollees are predicted to *outnumber* the enrollees in traditional Fee-for-Service Medicare. In addition, Medicare Advantage beneficiaries save [nearly \\$2,000](#) a year compared to those enrolled in traditional Medicare. As many seniors rely on fixed incomes, these significant savings are important to their financial stability.

The proposed cuts to Medicare Advantage would put seniors in a state of uncertainty by increasing out-of-pocket costs and stripping them of some of the supplemental services that help them live healthier lifestyles. These supplemental services — such as in-home health care and meal delivery services — promote the mental and physical well-being of seniors by providing health plans that cater to their specific needs. To no surprise, these services along with more preventative care, lead to better health outcomes for seniors. As the number of seniors and adults with disabilities choosing to take advantage of Medicare Advantage's benefits continues to rise, we strongly urge you to not make any cuts to this vital part of Medicare.

Over 30 million Americans and 538,000 Wisconsin residents rely on Medicare Advantage to access quality and affordable coverage. We strongly urge you to take these individuals and their families into consideration by eliminating these harmful cuts and instead strengthening Medicare and Medicare Advantage for the years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.