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April 3, 2014

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Madam Secretary Sebelius:

On behalf of the thousands of seniors in New Hampshire and the millions of seniors and individuals with disabilities across the country, I write to you today to urge you to keep these patients in mind and reconsider the proposed changes for the 2015 Advance Notice on payments for Medicare Advantage (MA) beneficiaries. I am deeply concerned that these reductions will negatively impact many seniors with chronic illnesses who depend on these plans.

As you are aware, Medicare Advantage is a popular program among many seniors and individuals with disabilities. In 2012 alone Medicare Advantage enrollment grew by 10 percent. Medicare Advantage continues to offer seniors and individuals in the Granite State additional choices for high quality and affordable health care coverage. MA plans have proven to improve beneficiaries' health outcomes while containing costs by focusing on chronic care management and reduction in hospitalizations and readmissions. I have heard from many of my constituents who are nervous these adjustments will negatively affect their benefits, premiums, copays, and plan options.

During this transition time in health care coverage, we must ensure that we can sustainably fund Medicare Advantage and keep up with the demand, a demand that will only increase with the continued aging of the baby boomer population. We must work together to ensure that seniors and individuals with disabilities have access to affordable, comprehensive health care coverage. I am confident that you will take the necessary actions to keep Medicare Advantage payment rates stable for 2014. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress