

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

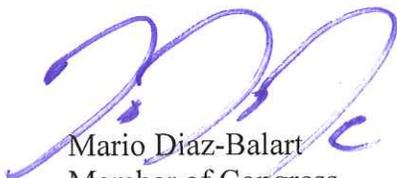
We write to you to voice our serious concerns with the recent changes proposed by CMS regarding payment rates to Medicare Advantage plans. If finalized in their current form, these changes stand to significantly impact the state of Florida. The Administration's policies unless addressed, will leave millions of Medicare eligible individuals in Florida with fewer and less affordable options.

Florida has one of the highest percentages of Medicare Advantage (MA) enrollees in the country. Of the nearly 3.8 million Floridians that are eligible for Medicare, more than 1.4 million (38%) are currently enrolled in MA. There are presently more than 769,000 MA enrollees residing in the combined four counties we represent in Florida (Broward, Collier, Hendry and Miami-Dade Counties). The impact of the CMS proposal to our constituents could be as much as \$540 annually, through reduced benefits or increased premiums of \$35-\$45 per-member per-month (PMPM).

In Florida, Medicare eligible individuals currently enjoy a wide range of affordable options through MA and MA-PDP. State-wide, more than 1,100 options are currently available to consumers, and 914 are offered at zero premium dollars. If the CMS payment changes go into effect, 2015 will mark the second consecutive year payment rates to MA were reduced by up to 6%. The last time MA (previously known as Medicare+Choice) experienced cuts of this magnitude over several years; nearly 2.4 million Medicare beneficiaries were negatively impacted by plan withdrawals and service reductions, according to CMS.

On behalf of our constituents, we urge you to mitigate the significant premium increases and benefit reductions and take action to limit disruption within the marketplace that may result in less choice for consumers.

Sincerely,


Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress