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[ Elected official's address ]

[ District office and capitol office ]

[ Date ]

Dear Rep. [ Last Name ],

Your help is needed. Medicare is endangered by an under-the-radar pilot program (1) currently sponsored by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) within the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Your help is needed to end the plan before further damage is suffered by seniors and by traditional Medicare.

Representatives Bill Pascrell, Mark Pocan, Katie Porter, and Lloyd Doggett have written a letter (2) to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra and the Acting Administrator of CMS urging them to immediately freeze CMMI's Global and Professional Direct Contracting Entities (DCE) pilot programs.

The four representatives assert that "funneling people into Medicare Advantage-like plans not only eliminates beneficiary choice, but also erects more barriers and provides fewer consumer protections for beneficiaries." They state that this "DCE model creates additional risk for beneficiaries without adding any value and that the DCE model has even less accountability than Medicare Advantage plans, which have been overpaid \$143 billion between 2008 and 2020 according to MedPAC."

A press release (3) of May 14, 2021, by Rep. Pascrell states:

"Under this problematic model, beneficiaries who have deliberately chosen traditional Medicare over Medicare Advantage (MA) plans will be auto-enrolled in private plans offered by insurer DCEs within traditional Medicare. The model also allows insurer DCEs to maximize reimbursement through inflated Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) codes and because of the pervasive nature of this practice in risk scores, we are alarmed that the insurer DCE may significantly increase costs without providing any value. The insurer DCE model creates additional risk for beneficiaries without adding any value."

As your constituent, I request that you join in this effort to stop the harmful DCE model.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,

[ Your Name ]

References:

1. Trudy Lieberman article, March 11, 2021, "The latest under-the-radar program could push Medicare deeper into private hands"

<https://centerforhealthjournalism.org/2021/03/10/latest-under-radar-program-could-push-medicare-deeper-private-hands>

2. Letter to HHS Becerra and CMS Richter from Congresspersons Pocan, Porter, Doggett and Pascrell expressing concern over the Direct Contracting Entities. (While the letter is dated May 13, 2020, it appears that the correct date is May 13, 2021.)

[https://pascrell.house.gov/uploadedfiles/letter\\_to\\_hhs\\_and\\_cms\\_on\\_cmml\\_direct\\_contracting\\_model\\_5.13.21.pdf](https://pascrell.house.gov/uploadedfiles/letter_to_hhs_and_cms_on_cmml_direct_contracting_model_5.13.21.pdf)

3. U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell Press Release, May 14, 2021: Pascrell, Pocan sound alarm on Medicare Oversight

<https://pascrell.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=4760>