



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0529

February 28, 2017

Dr. Patrick Conway
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 445-G
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Acting Administrator Conway:

We write to express our strong support for the Medicare Advantage (MA) program and the high-quality care it provides to nearly 18 million seniors and individuals with disabilities. With over 90 percent of beneficiaries reporting high satisfaction, and the Medicare Trustees predicting future participation growth, we ask that the agency continue to implement policies that preserve and strengthen this valuable program as it finalizes the proposals recently released in the 2018 60-Day Notice and Draft Call Letter.

The Medicare Advantage program is improving quality and efficiency throughout the health care system and reducing the cost of the Medicare program for taxpayers by delivering higher value care and producing better outcomes for beneficiaries. Medicare Advantage practices and approaches to care management do not just benefit Medicare Advantage enrollees – they “spill over” into the traditional Medicare program as well. Research suggests that as a result of these innovative and effective plan techniques, growth in Medicare Advantage enrollment actually slows the growth of costs in traditional Medicare, particularly in areas of the country where MA is popular.

Now, more than ever, it is important to preserve the program’s coverage integrity and existing incentives for Medicare Advantage plans to offer efficient, person-centered managed care to seniors. For example, the Final 2018 Rate Notice and Call Letter should provide sound funding that keeps pace with expected medical costs.

The Medicare Advantage program continues to be of value to both taxpayers and seniors. The program also gives plans the flexibility to offer additional care coordination and disease management programs, as well as assistance in accessing community-based resources not always available in traditional Medicare. For this reason, we urge you to maintain existing protections for beneficiaries, provide a stable and predictable level of funding for the program, and to the greatest extent possible limit regulatory requirements that may result in increased administrative burden or reduced access to beneficiaries. Please know we will continue to closely monitor the changes this administration makes to the MA program.

Brett Guthrie

Erik Paulsen

Sincerely,

Tony Cárdenas

Earl Blumenauer


John Moolenaar


Francis Rooney


Alan Lowenthal


Eric Swalwell



John Yarmuth


Ann McLane Kuster


Josh Gottheimer


Mimi Walters


Scott Tipton


Alma S. Adams


Bradley Byrne


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Tom O'Halleran


Bruce Westerman


Joyce Beatty


Paul Mitchell


Michelle Lujan Grisham


Mia Love


Elizabeth H. Esty

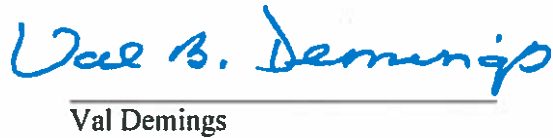

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Robert Pittenger

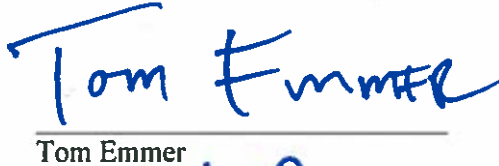

Dan Kildee

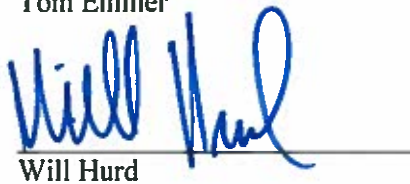

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Val Demings


David Young


Tom Emmer


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David Scott


Jimmy Panetta

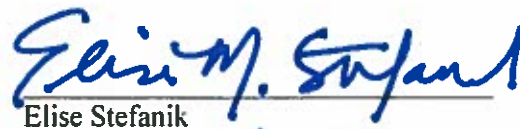

John Rutherford

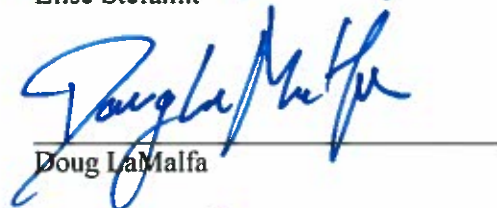

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Ruben J. Kihuen


Brian Babin

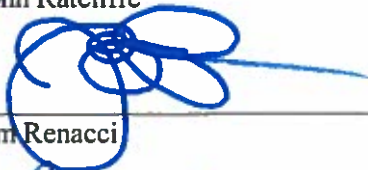

Elise Stefanik


Doug LaMalfa

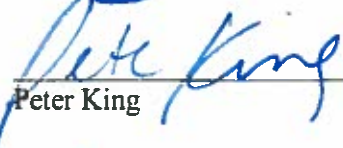

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Jim Renacci



Peter King



Jack Bergman



Ralph Abraham, M.D.



Jackie Walorski



Neal Dunn, M.D.



Denny Heck



Charlie Crist



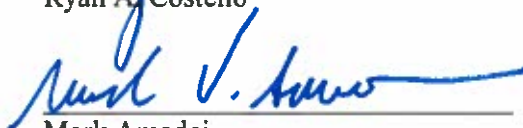
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Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter



Ryan A. Costello



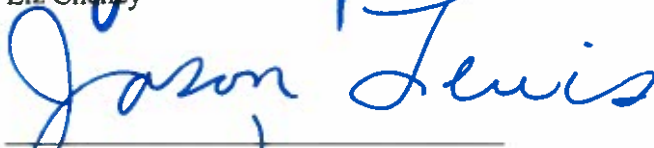
Mark Amodei



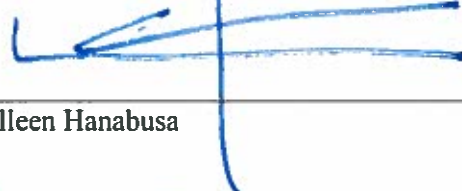
John Lewis



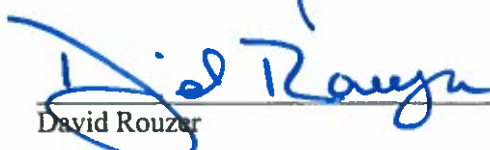
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Jason Lewis



Colleen Hanabusa



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Rick W. Allen



Mike Bishop



Garret Graves



Ann Wagner



Dennis A. Ross



Suzanne Bonamici



Mario Diaz-Balart



Martha Roby



Tim MacArthur



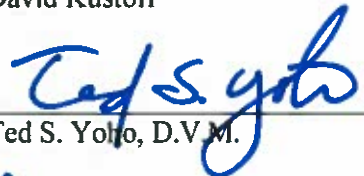
Matt Gaetz



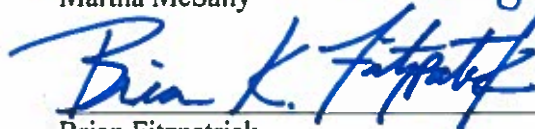
David Kustoff



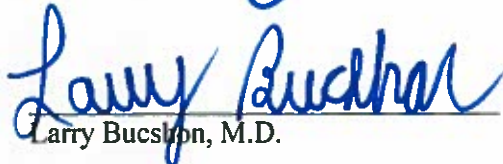
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Mike Gallagher



Cheri Bustos




Devin Nunes



Julia Brownley



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Stephen Knight



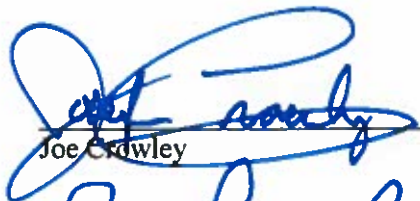
Sean Patrick Maloney




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J. Luis Correa


Jaime Herrera Beutler

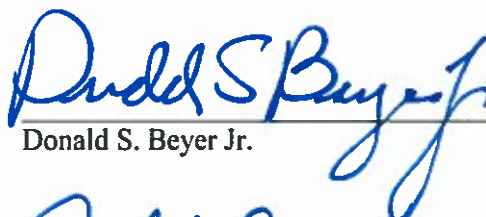

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Jason Smith



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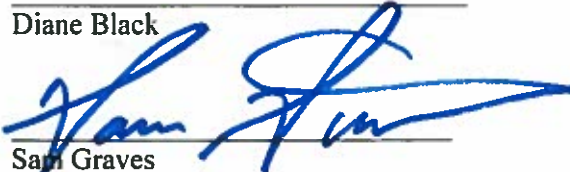

David Joyce

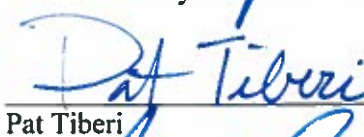

Tim Ryan

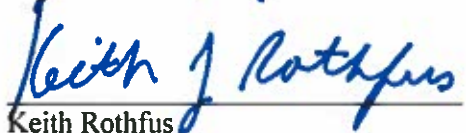

Dave Reichert


Diane Black

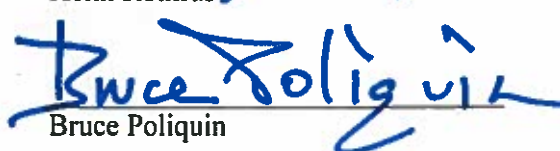

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Keith Rothfus


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Bruce Poliquin


Susan Davis


Glenn Grothman


Pete Aguilar


French Hill


Luke Messer


Stephanie Murphy



Mark Walker


Cathy McMorris Rodgers


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Raul Ruiz, M.D.


Beto O'Rourke


Carlos Curbelo


Zoe Lofgren


Seth Moulton


Ed Perlmutter


Mark Pocan

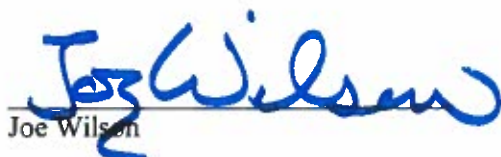

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Darren Soto



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Ron Kind


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Pete Olson



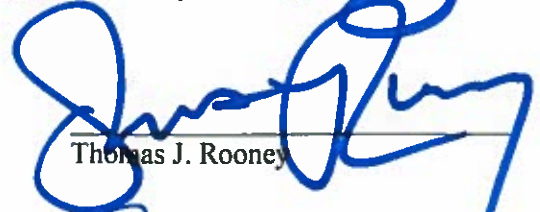
Peter A. DeFazio



Bill Posey



Danny K. Davis



Thomas J. Rooney



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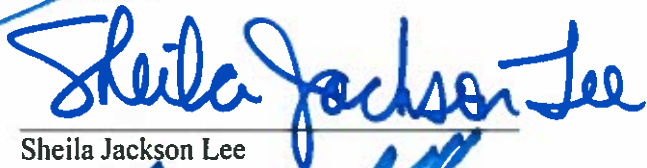
Brad Sherman



Brian Mast



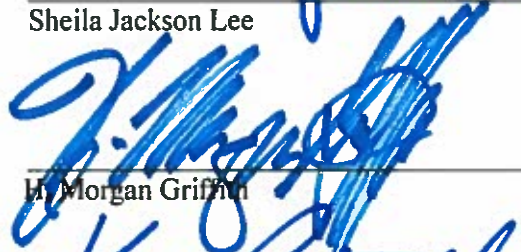
Marcy Kaptur



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Terri Sewell



H. Morgan Griffith



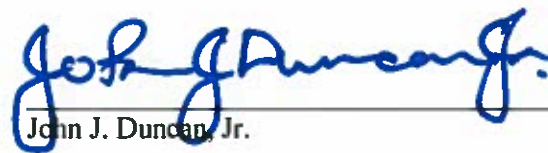
Collin C. Peterson



Ken Calvert



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



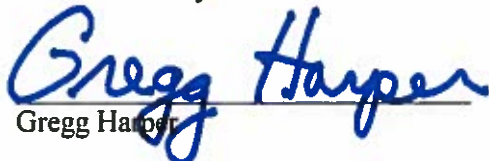
John J. Duncan, Jr.



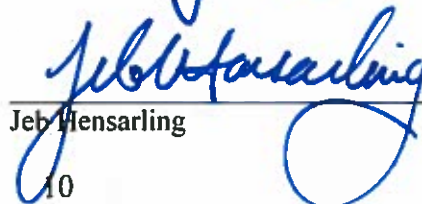
Mac Thornberry




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Jeb Hensarling



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Keith Ellison


Marsha Blackburn


Scott DesJarlais


Nydia M. Velázquez


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Patrick Meehan


Rodney Frelinghuysen

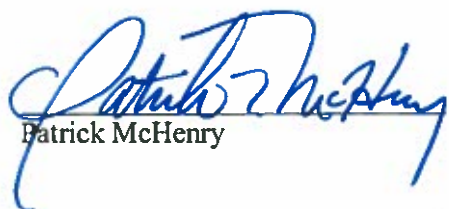

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Blake Farenthold


Tim Murphy

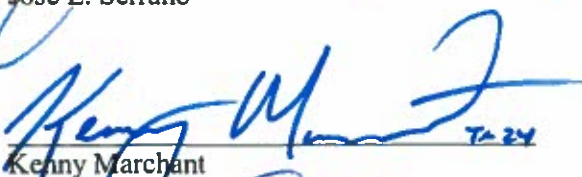

Patrick McHenry


Steven Palazzo

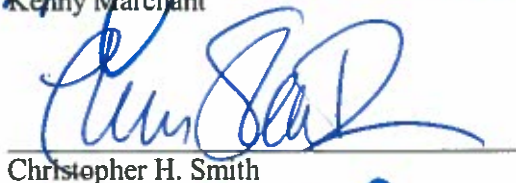

Leonard Lance


José E. Serrano

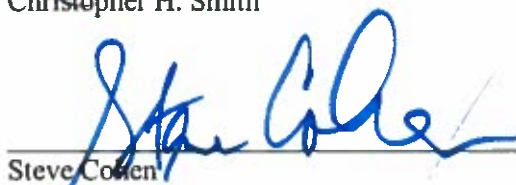

Michael R. Turner


Kenny Marchant

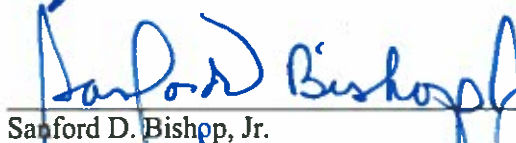

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Doug Lamborn


Steve Cohen


Harold Rogers


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.


Chuck Fleischmann



Steve Womack



Brad R. Wenstrup

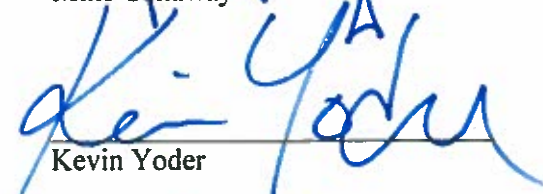

Rick Crawford



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Duncan Hunter


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Kristi Noem



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Dina Titus



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Cedric L. Richmond



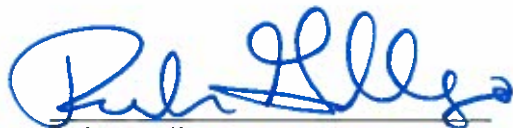
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Mike D. Rogers



Ruben Gallego