

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3302

June 17, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

We write today to express our support for the Medicare Part D program and our concerns regarding proposals that would delay certain payments to prescription drug plans under the guise of implementing a recommendation of the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the Inspector General. This proposed policy to the Medicare Part D program adds no fundamental benefit to the program and is a step in the wrong direction.

Medicare Part D is a highly successful program that has a proven track record in delivering high quality, affordable prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries. It has a 90 percent beneficiary satisfaction rate and, due to its strong focus on competition and choice, consistently has cost less than the Congressional Budget Office originally projected, most recently by more than 50 percent. In March 2014, Congress successfully blocked regulatory attempts to upend the program through sweeping fundamental changes. Altering the program's payment methodology would risk similar changes leading to disruptions for beneficiaries.

Because reinsurance payments are part of the overall bidding calculation, detaching reinsurance payments from the rest of the payment to Part D plans would negatively affect bids, premiums, and cost-sharing. Furthermore, when the HHS Inspector General also released a report (A-07-11-05017) addressing payment shifts, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) argued against such a policy change because it would "create an undesirable precedent" and would "result in a decrease of most or all of estimated cost savings."

This proposed budgetary change would not reduce federal spending or bureaucracy, but instead would result in increased Part D costs that ultimately would be passed on to the Medicare Trust Fund and its beneficiaries. This change is effectively a tax on America's seniors. Funding federal agency initiatives by cutting the Medicare program would set a dangerous precedent for future legislation.

Sincerely,



Renee Ellmers (NC-02)  
Member of Congress



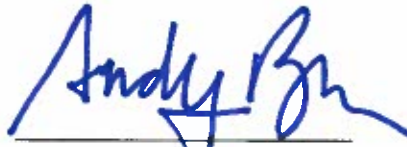
Ron Kind (WI-03)  
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar (CA-31)  
Member of Congress



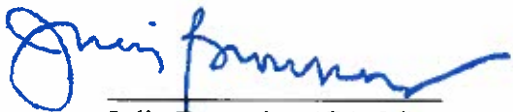
Lou Barletta (PA-11)  
Member of Congress



Andy Barr (KY-06)  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer (OR-03)  
Member of Congress



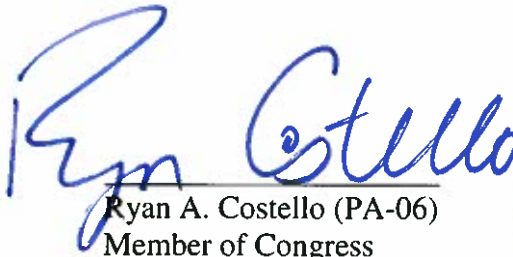
Julia Brownley (CA-26)  
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright (PA-17)  
Member of Congress



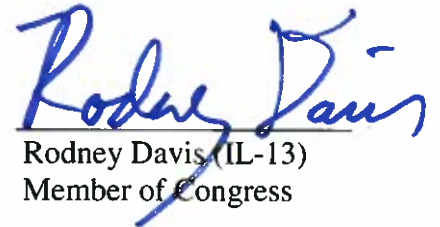
Chris Collins (NY-27)  
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello (PA-06)  
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford (AR-01)  
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis (IL-13)  
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch (FL-21)  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores (TX-17)  
Member of Congress



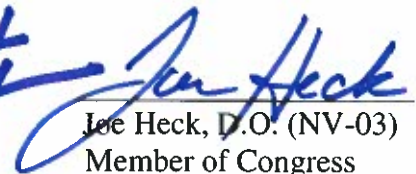
Gwen Graham (FL-02)  
Member of Congress



Sam Graves (MO-06)  
Member of Congress



Frank C. Guinta (NH-01)  
Member of Congress



Lee Heck, D.O. (NV-03)  
Member of Congress



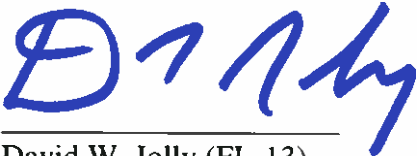
Brian Higgins (NY-26)  
Member of Congress



Steve Israel (NY-03)  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson (OH-06)  
Member of Congress



David W. Jolly (FL-13)  
Member of Congress



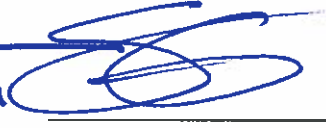
John Katko (NY-24)  
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee (MI-05)  
Member of Congress



Ann M. Kuster (NH-02)  
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18)  
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows (NC-11)  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore (WI-04)  
Member of Congress



Patrick Murphy (FL-18)  
Member of Congress



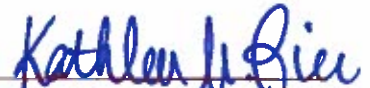
Kristi L. Noem (SD-At Large)  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters (CA-52)  
Member of Congress



James B. Renacci (OH-16)  
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice (NY-04)  
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond (LA-02)  
Member of Congress



Phil Roe, M.D. (TN-01)  
Member of Congress



Thomas J. Rooney (FL-17)  
Member of Congress

David Rouzer

David Rouzer (NC-07)  
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell

Terri A. Sewell (AL-07)  
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema

Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-09)  
Member of Congress

Elise M. Stefanik

Elise M. Stefanik (NY-21)  
Member of Congress

Mark Takai

Mark Takai (HI-01)  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson

Frederica S. Wilson (FL-24)  
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson

Joe Wilson (SC-02)  
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho

Ted S. Yoho (FL-13)  
Member of Congress