

**Statement for the Record:
Congressman Keith J. Rothfus [PA-12] and Congressman Kurt Schrader [OR-05]
House Committee on Ways and Means
Full Committee Markup
June 2, 2015**

Chairman Ryan, Ranking Member Levin, and Members of the Committee – thank you for your interest and consideration of the Medicare Beneficiary Preservation of Choice Act of 2015 as part of H.R. 2581, the Preservation of Access for Seniors in Medicare Advantage Act. We are pleased that the Committee will include language based off of the common-sense, bipartisan legislation that we first introduced in June 2013.

Reinstating the open enrollment period is one small fix that we can make to Medicare Advantage that can have a significant impact on the lives of seniors utilizing the program in each of our districts. Prior to 2011, this period of flexibility allowed seniors to test drive their recently selected Medicare Advantage plan for the first three months of the year, and to switch plans if it turns out the plan is not working for them.

Restoring the open enrollment period makes sense as the Medicare Advantage landscape continues to change due to cuts to the program. It empowers seniors to make decisions about their health care needs, and helps ensure that seniors have access to the health care providers of their choice.

In fact, Robin, a registered nurse from Pittsburgh, PA shared her support for reinstating the open enrollment period in a recent letter saying that seniors should not be made to suffer on a plan they don't want, all because they got confused or signed up for a plan in error.

Giving the more than 16 million seniors using Medicare Advantage the option to switch plans if the one they initially enroll in doesn't meet their needs makes sense. It is why similar legislation in the 113th Congress gained more than 100 cosponsors.

We thank the Committee for its continued work to strengthen and protect Medicare Advantage and for its consideration of the Medicare Beneficiary Preservation of Choice Act today.