



June 20, 2013

The Honorable Keith Rothfus
U.S. House of Representatives
503 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kurt Schrader
U.S. House of Representatives
108 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressmen Rothfus and Schrader:

On behalf of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), I am writing to express our strong support for your bipartisan legislation to restore the Medicare Advantage open enrollment opportunities that existed before the enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

We appreciate your leadership in working to provide Medicare beneficiaries with additional safeguards to ensure that the coverage options they choose best suit their needs. Your bill would permit Medicare beneficiaries to change options if they decide that the selection they made during the annual election period that occurs from October – December of each year is not right for them, including the opportunity to switch or enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan that offers high quality coverage and delivers value through systems of coordinated care.

Your bill takes important steps to strengthen beneficiary choice under the Medicare program. The ACA limited the opportunity that was previously available to beneficiaries to switch among their Medicare options one time during the first three months of the year. Instead, it established a Medicare

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Advantage Disenrollment Period between January 1 and February 14 of each year when beneficiaries may only disenroll from a Medicare Advantage plan to the traditional Medicare program, but may not switch plans or enroll in a plan from the traditional program. By once again providing the option for beneficiaries to make a one-time decision to switch options, as well as to disenroll, for a three month period, your bill allows beneficiaries to make changes to ensure they are enrolled in the option they believe best meets their needs. We strongly support your focus on reestablishing this important beneficiary safeguard and greatly appreciate your efforts to address these issues on behalf of current and future Medicare beneficiaries.

Thank you again for introducing this bipartisan legislation. We look forward to working with you to build support for improvements to the Medicare program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ka", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Ignagni
President and CEO