



December 7, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell,

We are writing to encourage you to avoid any policy changes that would result in net increases in Medicare costs or payments as part of any end-of-year package.

Our three groups have different perspectives on numerous issues, but we all share concerns about rising health care costs, high inflation, and the risk of relying solely on the Federal Reserve to fight inflation.

Policymakers concerned about combatting inflation or supporting a strong economy should implement fiscal policies that help reduce inflation, including in Medicare. Because of its role in setting and influencing health care prices, the Medicare program has a substantial effect on the overall rate of inflation.

Reforms that lower Medicare costs could save taxpayers billions of dollars and significantly reduce premiums and cost-sharing for Medicare beneficiaries, while also helping to fight inflation and constrain long-term health care cost growth. Unfortunately, some have advocated for changes in the opposite direction.

We simply ask you to commit to not making the problems worse. Congress should not increase net Medicare costs, including by enacting unnecessary Medicare payment increases. For example, there is little justification to revive or extend COVID-era payment boosts, such as the suspension of the Medicare sequester or the physician payment bonus, that would worsen inflation and accelerate health care cost growth.

We respectfully ask that you abide by the old medical adage to “do no harm.”

Sincerely,

Marc Goldwein
Committee for a
Responsible Federal Budget

Arnab Datta
Employ America

Brian Blase
Paragon Health Institute