



April 10, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

As a coalition of groups representing millions of older Americans, persons with disabilities, minorities, veterans and healthcare providers - founded on the premise that eliminating waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs should be a priority for lawmakers to reduce health care spending - we urge your Administration to support program integrity reform instead of across-the-board cuts and increased costs for our nation's vulnerable seniors.

We respect that leaders in Washington have to make tough decisions when it comes to securing America's financial future. While progress must be made, we ask that lawmakers strongly consider advancing policy solutions that generate savings through targeted efforts to prevent fraudulent activity and wasteful spending in the Medicare program, and increase successful programs designed to recoup government funds lost to fraud and abuse.

As you prepare to release your FY 2014 budget, we respectfully ask you to propose targeted solutions to prevent improper and fraudulent payments before they occur. Strengthening the current pay-and-chase system through program integrity reforms is a solution that makes sense for older adults, taxpayers and our nation's health care delivery system.

Data suggest up to an estimated ten percent of Medicare funding is lost to waste, fraud, and abuse each year.<sup>1</sup> Successful programs created by your Administration have addressed system weaknesses and yielded billions of dollars in Medicare savings. We believe even more can be done. Therefore, we ask that you support targeted approaches to combating fraud and abuse to protect our nation's nearly 50 million Medicare beneficiaries.

Our organizations came together in the collective belief that correcting inefficiencies in the Medicare program is the most prudent approach to reducing federal spending within the Medicare program. Rather than turning to Medicare cuts or higher premiums or copayments that unfairly burden seniors, we urge the federal government to achieve savings by implementing policy solutions that stop waste, fraud, and abuse before it starts.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Government Accountability Office. *Medicare: Program Remains at High Risk Because of Continuing Management Challenges*. GAO-11-430T. March 2, 2011.

We encourage you to reject increased out-of-pocket costs or cuts to Medicare that would restrict beneficiary access or reduce benefits, and instead call for program integrity reforms that protect beneficiaries and save valuable taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,

AARP  
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association  
Caregiver Action Network  
HealthHIV  
National Association for Uniformed Services  
National Grange  
National Hispanic Council on Aging  
Partnership for Quality Home Healthcare  
RetireSafe  
Veterans Health Council  
Vietnam Veterans of America