

America's Health Insurance Plans  
601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
South Building, Suite Five Hundred  
Washington, DC 20004



**Matthew Eyles**  
President and CEO

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Ron Kind  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1502 Longworth Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1707 Longworth Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2434 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Doyle  
U.S. House of Representatives  
306 Cannon Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressmen Kind, Kelly, Guthrie, and Doyle:

On behalf of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), I am writing to express support for your bipartisan legislation, the "Medicare Advantage Quality Payment Relief Act." This legislation makes sense for millions of seniors who have chosen Medicare Advantage plans to protect their health and financial security.

This legislation would remove a payment cap ("benchmark cap") that currently prohibits Medicare Advantage plans operating in certain parts of the country from receiving the full bonus payments they have earned under the program's Star Ratings System. For many Americans with a Medicare Advantage plan, this payment cap creates an unlevel playing field, which means that seniors participating in these plans could be missing out on important savings and services. This policy is inconsistent with the broader goals of rewarding high quality performance and continued improvement in the delivery of care to people eligible for Medicare.

Medicare Advantage plans are proven to deliver better services, better care, and better value. That's why nearly 22 million Americans—approximately one-third of all Americans eligible for Medicare—choose a Medicare Advantage plan, and why 90 percent of seniors with Medicare Advantage are satisfied with their plan. Medicare Advantage outperforms traditional Medicare on 16 out of 16 clinical quality measures. And, Medicare Advantage patients have shorter hospital stays when compared with traditional Medicare patients at small, private, investor-owned, and independent hospitals.

That's why removing the benchmark cap makes sense. It would help preserve the innovative programs and strategies through which Medicare Advantage plans are providing tremendous value to seniors and people with disabilities.

Thank you for introducing your bipartisan bill. We look forward to working with you to build support for legislative action on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Eyles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Eyles  
President and CEO