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RICK LARSEN  
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Congress of the United States  
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February 14, 2022

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure,

Medicare is the cornerstone of seniors' health nationwide, including more than 1.3 million women and men in Washington state. Recently, I have heard from Medicare beneficiaries in my district with concerns that Direct Contracting Entities (DCEs) will weaken their health coverage and undermine traditional fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare.

Under the Direct Contracting Model, Medicare contracts with private companies to cover seniors' care within their provider networks. Some seniors may prefer this managed care approach—nearly 500,000 Washingtonians have enrolled in Medicare Advantage (MA) plans. However, unlike MA, which is opt-in, DCEs are allowed to bring traditional beneficiaries into their networks without action by the beneficiary.

Specifically, I have heard concerns that:

- CMS is placing seniors into DCE care without beneficiary opt-in and with minimal or confusing notification
- Placing traditional Medicare plans in a contracted managed care system will incentivize DCEs to limit care in order to maximize profits
- In other parts of the country, DCEs have attracted bids from private companies without a history of health care management, which could lead to a reduction in quality of care

Please address these concerns and provide assurances of how traditional Medicare beneficiaries in Western Washington will continue to exercise personal control over their health care.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen  
U.S. Representative  
Washington State, Second District