



Matthew Eyles
President and CEO

April 10, 2019

The Honorable Steve Daines
United States Senate
320 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
133 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Daines and King:

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 quality 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