

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

January 18, 2022

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure  
Administrator  
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

We write in support of Health and Human Services Secretary Becerra's recent request that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reevaluate Medicare Part B's 2022 premium increase.<sup>1</sup> The 14.5% increase hits seniors in our districts and across the country at a particularly vulnerable time. We urge the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to reevaluate its decision and spare our seniors from undue financial hardship.

As you know, Medicare beneficiaries are expected to experience a 14.5% increase in their Part B premiums in 2022, an unprecedented increase. A major factor driving that increase was CMS's need to build contingency reserves to cover the recently approved \$56,000 a year Alzheimer's drug, Aduhelm.<sup>2</sup> Given the uncertainty of Aduhelm's future coverage and how it could impact Medicare spending, CMS increased premiums to ensure there would be an adequate reserve.

Since then, Biogen announced they would decrease Aduhelm's list price from \$56,000 to \$28,200. Additionally, CMS made a preliminary coverage decision to only cover Aduhelm for patients participating in clinical trials. In light of the list price decrease, the Secretary requested that CMS revisit its previous decision. We echo the Secretary's request to reverse the Medicare Part B premium increases for 2022.

Much like President Biden, we promised to reduce prescription drug costs— particularly for older Americans. We cannot break our promise to the American people. Nearly 64 million Americans rely on Medicare for their health care coverage, the majority of whom pay monthly Part B

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/01/10/hhs-secretary-xavier-becerra-instructs-cms-reassess-recommendation-2022-medicare-part-b-premium.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-2022-medicare-part-b-premiums>

premiums. As the global pandemic rages on and prices rise in many sectors of the economy, our nation's seniors simply cannot afford this sudden and unnecessary increase in their health care costs

More broadly, we must take additional action to lower the soaring cost of prescription drugs. We cannot continue to ask the American people to underwrite the pharmaceutical industry's outrageous profits.

We share CMS's commitment to providing high quality and affordable coverage and ensuring that Medicare is here to stay for future generations. We stand ready to serve as your partners in Congress on this critical issue. Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,



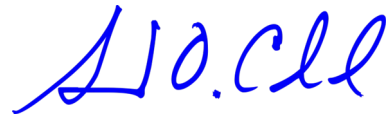
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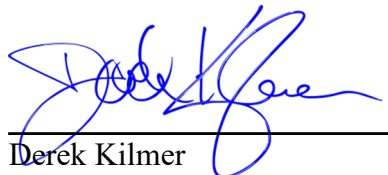
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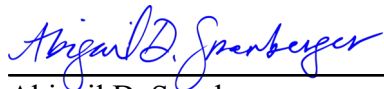
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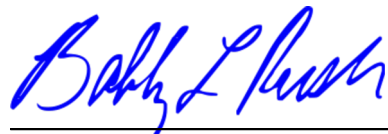
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