



March 21, 2012

The Honorable Pete Stark
Cannon House Office Building, Room 239
1st and Independence Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stark:

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I am writing to express our support for your legislation, the *Medicare Advantage Program Integrity Act of 2012*.

It is my understanding that your legislation would increase the coding intensity adjustment for Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, as recommended in the U.S. Government Accountability Office report, *Medicare Advantage: CMS Should Improve the Accuracy of Risk Score Adjustments for Diagnostic Coding Practices*. Specifically, this action would result in payments that more accurately reflecting the health status of MA enrollees and produce savings to the government. In addition, the legislation would delay pre-payments to MA plans and limit their ability to retain investment income on these payments. This recommendation from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General is based on studying a similar policy on investment income related to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. In total, these two provisions will save the government over \$20 billion over 10 years.

The National Committee knows how important Medicare is to beneficiaries and their families and supports efforts, such as your legislation, that aim to protect and strengthen the program for all generations. Furthermore, the *Medicare Advantage Program Integrity Act of 2012* helps level the playing field in terms of payment between MA plans and traditional fee-for-service, which is not only fair, but results in significant savings to the Medicare program.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and commitment to improving health care programs that serve all Americans. We look forward to working with you on this legislation and other efforts that strengthen the Medicare program for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max Richtman".

Max Richtman
President/CEO

The National Committee is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that acts in the interests of its membership through advocacy, education, services, grassroots efforts and the leadership of the board of directors and professional staff. The work of the National Committee is directed toward developing a secure retirement for all Americans.