

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 4, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to uphold your repeated promises to not cut Medicare and to publicly reject the almost \$500 billion in Medicare benefit cuts in both House and Senate Republicans' Fiscal Year 2018 budget resolutions. We also ask you reject the more than \$1 trillion in Medicaid benefit cuts in the House and Senate budget resolutions. Medicare and Medicaid should not be used to finance new tax breaks for the wealthy, and we request that you pledge to veto any legislation that includes these cuts.

Nine out of ten Americans oppose cutting Medicare, including 85 percent of Republicans. During the campaign, you pledged numerous times not to cut Medicare in any way, and as recently as April said, "the concept of Medicare, I'm not touching."

More than 55 million seniors and Americans with disabilities depend on Medicare. The staggering benefit cuts proposed in the Republican budgets would subject millions of these Americans, many of whom already live on tight budgets, to soaring out-of-pocket health costs, higher premiums and reductions in benefits. Even deeper cuts would be triggered if Congress adds trillions to the deficit in tax cuts for the wealthy as the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act would then require an additional automatic cut ("sequester") to Medicare and other domestic programs.

Additionally, nine out of ten people do not want to see Medicaid cut. Americans resoundingly rejected cuts to Medicaid this year and fought to protect care for the more than 70 million Americans that benefit from it. Hard-working families, children, seniors, veterans, those with disabilities, people struggling with addiction, and rural communities would face immense suffering – but the proposed budgets cut Medicaid even deeper than any previous legislation.

Medicare and Medicaid are promises to working and middle-class families that quality health care will be there when they need it most. It is a promise that we must not break. Americans have spoken passionately and clearly to say that our country should move toward covering more people and reducing the cost of care – not the opposite. We hope to work with you and Congressional Republicans in a bipartisan manner to achieve this goal.

We ask you to maintain your ongoing promise to protect Medicare, to oppose cuts to Medicaid and to swiftly reassure the millions of Americans who rely on them that they will not be cut to fund tax breaks for the wealthy.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader



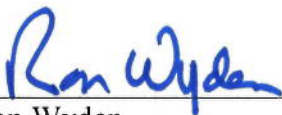
Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader



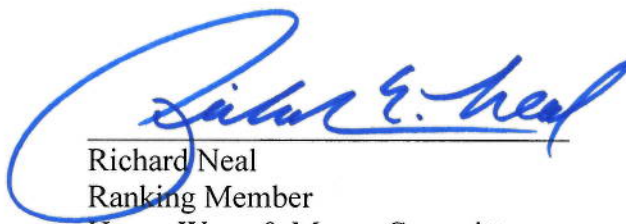
Bernard Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate Budget Committee



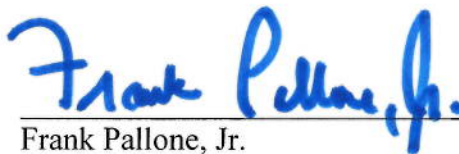
John Yarmuth
Ranking Member
House Budget Committee



Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee



Richard Neal
Ranking Member
House Ways & Means Committee



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Energy & Commerce Committee