Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2014

The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

We are writing to urge you to withdraw the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Part D proposed rule (CMS-4159-P). We are deeply concerned that this rule threatens to cause disruption for millions of Part D enrollees this fall during 2015 Open Enrollment and inflict significant harm to the successful Part D model that has resulted in high enrollee satisfaction and lower-than-expected costs.

Over the past decade, Medicare Part D has been a model for government and industry cooperation in health care. The program has maintained stable, affordable average monthly premiums, enjoys a 90 percent approval rating among beneficiaries, and has cost nearly $200 billion less than original Congressional Budget Office projections. This tremendous success has been achieved through Medicare Part D's unique model, which promotes robust competition among plans to serve Medicare beneficiaries while ensuring they meet strict coverage, quality, and service standards enforced by CMS.

We are very concerned that the proposed rule will jeopardize the effectiveness and benefits of Medicare Part D, including beneficiary access to lower-premium drug plans. Lower-premium drug plans – some as low as $12.60 a month – account for around 70% of total stand-alone Part D enrollment. Enrollees in lower-premium plans are overwhelmingly satisfied, citing lower costs, convenient access to pharmacies, and other benefits. Research even shows that many of the lower-premium plans have the same or better average quality ratings than plans with higher premiums. We fear this proposed rule could restrict plan choice and access to needed drugs for seniors who choose lower-premium plans.

In light of the success of Medicare Part D and our strong concerns with the sweeping changes being considered by CMS, we ask that you withdraw the proposed rule.

Sincerely,

Patrick E. Murphy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Joe Garcia
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Alcee L. Hastings
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Gregory Meeks
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Barbara Lee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Wm. Lacy Clay
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Rush Holt
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Steve Israel
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jim Matheson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Linda Sánchez
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

David Scott
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jim Costa
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

André Carson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Albio Sires
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Gary C. Peters
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jared Polis
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Kurt Schrader
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

John C. Carney, Jr.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Frederica S. Wilson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ron Barber
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ami Bera, M.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Tony Cárdenas
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Suzan DelBene
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Elizabeth Esty
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Denny Heck
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Derek Kilmer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ann McLane Kuster
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Scott Peters
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Brad Schneider
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Kyrsten Sinema
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Eric Swalwell
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Marc Veasey
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Katherine Clark
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Marcia L. Fudge
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Chaka Fattah
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Bennie G. Thompson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Henry Cuellar
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mike Quigley
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Collin Peterson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Sean Patrick Maloney
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Carol Shea-Porter
MEMBER OF CONGRESS