

## BECAUSE, COMPARED TO OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS, OUR NATION

- ranks lowest in health care;
- has the lowest life expectancy and the highest infant mortality;
- in 2019 spent about \$11,000 per person on health care while other comparable countries spent an average of \$5,500;
- profoundly limits access to health care by income inequality.

## IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE HAVE MEDICARE FOR ALL:

- an improved public Medicare system that would provide quality health care for all U.S. residents;
- and would include dental, eye, hearing and mental health care;
- as has been described in bills introduced by Representative Jayapal and Senator Sanders.

## INSTEAD:

There is a concerted effort to privatize Medicare, to enroll people in private practices without their understanding or consenting to what is happening – in practices in which medical practitioners in private businesses can refuse needed care, give inferior care, and reap profits. *This can happen despite individuals consciously and deliberately choosing the original Medicare program, which does not have these limitations.*

Although the Trump Administration's Medicare Direct Contracting Entity (DCE) Program, which did the above, was cancelled by the Biden Administration, they have also proposed a new, similar program to take effect in January 2023.

This program is called ACO-REACH (Accountable Care Organization Realizing Equity, Access, and Community). It would allow third-party middlemen to manage senior care, enrolling seniors in for-profit programs without their understanding or consent – programs that will often deny seniors the care they need while profiting their providers.

THEREFORE, it is necessary for this 2022 General Assembly of the UUA to go on record against the implementation of the ACO-REACH Program by

- urging the UUA to contact The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services and The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Administrator, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, imploring them not to allow the implementation of ACO-REACH, and imploring them to instead support a Medicare for All Program such as those introduced by Representative Jayapal and Senator Sanders;
- urging UU congregations, fellowships, societies, and other UU-related organizations and their members to do the same and, also, to write to their senators and representatives to do what they can to see that ACO-REACH is not implemented and that a Medicare for All bill is passed and implemented.

We note this report that the Office of the Inspector General has found that Medicare Advantage plans have been denying claims inappropriately: <https://justcareusa.org/oig-finds-widespread-inappropriate-care-denials-in-medicare-advantage/>