

## HELP STOP THE PRIVATIZATION OF MEDICARE

It is urgent that you contact your Congresspersons, asking them to prevent the implementation of ACO-REACH, scheduled to go into effect in January 2023, and to stop the selling of Medicare Advantage plans.

Because compared to other developed nations, our nation:

- ranks lowest in health care;
- has the lowest life expectancy and the highest infant mortality rates;
- in 2019 spent about \$11,000 per person on health care while other comparable nations spent an average of \$5500;
- 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, and would cost our nation and most individuals less than our present system;
- as has been described in bills introduced by Representative Jayapal and Senator Sanders.

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 need 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.

There was the Direct Contracting Entity (DCE) Program, which did the above, was cancelled by the Biden Administration.

But instead, they have proposed a new, similar program scheduled to take effect in January 2023. This program is called ACO-REACH (Accountable Care Organization Realizing Equity, Access, and Community) and 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.

Currently, there are the Medicare Advantage plans which have been described as being like Roach Motels—a cockroach trap with a sticky glue-like adhesive on the inside that grabs any entering roach's legs and renders it immobile. A report about Medical Advantage plans from

the inspector general's office of the Health and Human Services Department says that tens of millions of denials issued each year for both authorization and reimbursement show evidence of "widespread and persistent problems related to inappropriate denials of service and payment."

Have you already succumbed to the advertising aimed to get you to purchase a Medicare Advantage plan? If so, it will behoove you to read the fine print and see if you want to remain in it, and, if you don't, see what you can do to get out of it.

PS In addition to Representative Jayapal's excellent Medicare for All Bill (H.R.1976) there is now, also, an excellent Senate bill introduced by Senator Sanders (SB 4204).