



President
George J.Kourpias

Secretary-Treasurer
Ruben Burks

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY MEDICARE!

Dear Representative:

Today, July 30, marks the anniversary of the 1965 signing of the Medicare law. For more than four decades, Medicare has provided affordable, quality health care that has vastly improved the quality of life for millions of America's seniors.

The House of Representatives has the opportunity this week to strengthen and protect Medicare for current and future retirees. On behalf of the more than three million members of the Alliance for Retired Americans, we urge your support for H.R. 3162, The Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007.

The Alliance has long advocated for improvements in Medicare benefits. This legislation includes coverage and waiver of cost sharing and deductibles for preventive and essential screening services as well as reducing the coinsurance for mental health services. We also support the provisions protecting low-income beneficiaries, such as adjusting the assets test for the Medicare Savings and Low-Income Subsidy programs and expanding and making the Qualified Individual (QI) program permanent. These provisions will directly improve the quality of life for retirees.

The Alliance has grave concerns with the Medicare Advantage (MA) program. We object strongly to overpayments to MA plans, which are 12 to 19 percent more than the cost would be under Medicare. The MA program increases the Part B premiums of all beneficiaries, including those who are not in MA plans. In addition, there have been cases of fraudulent enrollment and misrepresentation of benefits, insufficiency in benefits coverage particularly by private fee-for-service plans, and erratic quality across plans. Provisions in H.R. 3162 addresses these serious concerns.

Enactment of H.R. 3162 will be a significant step to ensure that the intent of Medicare to provide affordable health care to America's seniors remains as strong today and in the future as it was in 1965. If we can be of assistance, please contact Richard Fiesta, Director of Government and Political Affairs, at the Alliance.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of George J. Kourpias in black ink.

George J. Kourpias
President

Handwritten signature of Ruben Burks in black ink.

Ruben Burks
Secretary-Treasurer

Handwritten signature of Edward F. Coyle in black ink.

Edward F. Coyle
Executive Director