

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Slavitt
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

September 16, 2016

Dear Administrator Slavitt:

We write to request an update on the implementation of the Social Security Number Removal Initiative by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Sixty million seniors and disabled Americans should not have to risk identity theft in order to access health care. We therefore respectfully request information about the timeline and coordination of the effort to remove Social Security numbers from Medicare cards.

Identity theft remains a major risk to seniors and disabled persons whose Medicare cards display Social Security numbers as their unique identifiers. The risks involved cannot be overstated, especially for those with physical or mental impairments or fragility. Identity thieves can wreak havoc upon the lives of victims through compromised information, and current Medicare cards increase the risks. Losing a wallet or purse with a driver's license and a Medicare card can turn a moment of absent-mindedness into a nightmare.

In order to address these dangers, section 501 of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 requires the establishment of cost-effective procedures to remove Social Security-based identifiers from Medicare cards. New cards must be compliant with this provision by April 2019, and previously issued cards must be reissued in compliance section 501 by April 2023.

We believe that moving ahead quickly and efficiently on this matter is in the best interest of Medicare beneficiaries, health care providers, and taxpayers nationwide. Furthermore, we should not hesitate to take reasonable measures to stop criminals from preying on our most vulnerable neighbors. Please help us, our colleagues in Congress, and all Americans understand your progress towards completion of this initiative.

- What challenges or obstacles to implementing section 501 have been identified?
- When will MACRA-compliant cards begin to be issued to new Medicare enrollees?
- When will cards begin to be reissued to comply with MACRA?
- How will CMS ensure that the information technology systems of all enrollment and eligibility partners are modified and updated in preparation for the shift to new Medicare beneficiary identifiers?
- Finally, how will CMS ensure that beneficiaries and providers are educated on the use of new cards and the proper disposal of older cards displaying Social Security numbers?

Our constituents cannot afford a faulty or delayed implementation of this initiative. The financial security, peace of mind, and health of senior and disabled Americans and those that care for them are at stake.

We request your answers by September 30, 2016. Thank you for your consideration of this letter, and we look forward to your response.

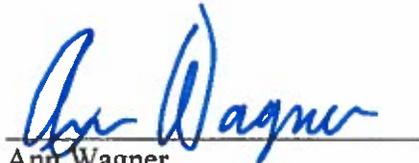
Sincerely,



Dave Brat
Member of Congress



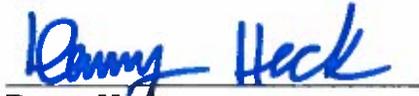
Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



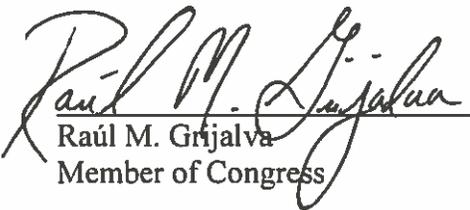
Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress



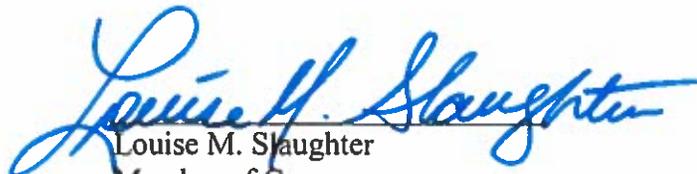
Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



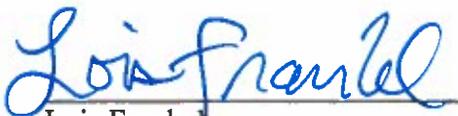
Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

Glenn 'GT' Thompson

Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers

Steve Stivers
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Scott Peters

Scott Peters
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Patrick E. Murphy

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Ryan Zinke
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Peter DeFazio

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David G. Valadao
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Kyrsten Sinema

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

John Fleming, M.D.

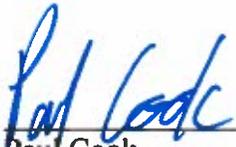
John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
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Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress

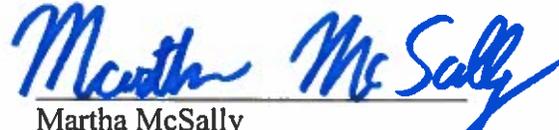


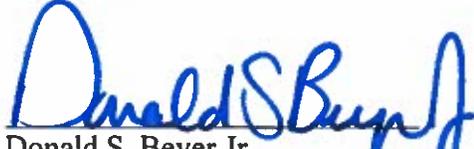
John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
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Tony Cárdenas
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Martha McSally
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Dana Rohrabacher
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