Honorabe Marilyn Tavenner  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

We write to express our concerns about the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently proposed rule on the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System.

The new bundled payment system for dialysis has been a remarkable success in payment reform. However, as written, the new proposed rule would have a devastating impact on Medicare beneficiaries who desperately depend on dialysis treatments just to stay alive.

The proposed cut in payments in the pending rule constitute a 12% or a $30 reduction of what would otherwise be $246 prospective payment for dialysis. A cut of this magnitude to an industry that, according to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, has just 3-4% Medicare margins, could result in closure of dialysis facilities and a reversal of many recent gains that have been made in improving quality of care and mortality for dialysis patients.

It is our concern that CMS has not considered its full statutory obligations in developing this proposal; it is critical to take analyze the costs of providing dialysis care. As you are aware, CMS has an obligation to link the payment rate to facility costs or other economic and equitable factors. As you move toward finalizing the rule, we hope that the Agency will consider the full impact of the proposed changes in order to ensure that the final payment amount is not less than the cost of providing care.

Again, the new bundled payment system for dialysis shows the great strides we have made, and can make again. We should not let the next rule negatively impact beneficiaries who rely on these critical services. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Diane Black  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

John Shinkus  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress
Tom Price
Member of Congress
Donald Payne
Member of Congress
Patrick Tiberi
Member of Congress
James Langevin
Member of Congress
Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress
Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress
Jim Renacci
Member of Congress
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress
Robert Brady
Member of Congress
Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress
Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress
Lou Barletta
Member of Congress
Bill Posey
Member of Congress
Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress
Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress
Cory Gardner
Member of Congress
Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

Danny Davis
Member of Congress

Greg Walden
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

Jim Matheson
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

John Tierney
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

John Barrow
Member of Congress

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress
Bill Pascrell  
Member of Congress

Michael Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Bill Young  
Member of Congress

Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress

Robin Kelly  
Member of Congress

John Conyers  
Member of Congress

Steve Pearce  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Bordallo  
Member of Congress

Chris Smith  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

Linda Sanchez  
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop  
Member of Congress

Lydia Westmoreland  
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress

Jim Gerlach  
Member of Congress
Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Tom Cotton
Member of Congress

Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress

Alan Grayson
Member of Congress

Elena Vela
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Phil Roe
Member of Congress

Tom Marino
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Martha Roby
Member of Congress

Pete Gallego
Member of Congress

James McGovern
Member of Congress

Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress
Keith Rothfus  
Member of Congress  

Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress  

Michael Grimm  
Member of Congress  

Ted Yoho  
Member of Congress  

Todd Young  
Member of Congress  

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress  

David Valadao  
Member of Congress  

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress  

Devin Nunes  
Member of Congress  

Lynn Jenkins  
Member of Congress  

Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress  

Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress  

Theodore Deutch  
Member of Congress  

Kenny Marchant  
Member of Congress  

Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress
Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

Stephen Lee Fincher
Member of Congress

Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress

Sean Duffy
Member of Congress

Pedro Pierluisi
Member of Congress

Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress

Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress

Chris Collins
Member of Congress

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress

Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Tim Griffin
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Jim McNulty
Member of Congress

Tom Reed
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Trey Gowdy
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress

Charles Boustany
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Joe Garcia
Member of Congress

Susan Brooks
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress
Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress

Robert Latta  
Member of Congress

Charlie Dent  
Member of Congress

Bennie Thompson  
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress

Scott Perry  
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress

William Keating  
Member of Congress

Ted Poe  
Member of Congress

Donna Edwards  
Member of Congress

Andre Carson  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Gene Green  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper  
Member of Congress

Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress
John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress

J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress