



Humboldt Progressive Democrats

RESOLUTION #2022-04

The Privatization of Medicare Must be Stopped

Whereas, the Direct Contracting Entities (DCEs) program that started under the Trump administration introduced a way to move Medicare beneficiaries who had chosen Traditional Medicare into a for-profit insurance model without their consent, and

Whereas, at the present time there is no Congressional oversight of this program now known as ACO-Reach (Accountable Care Organization- Realizing Equity, Access and Community Health), and

Whereas, despite an endless barrage of deceptive advertising, the majority of those eligible for Medicare have chosen Traditional Medicare over for-profit insurance offered as Medicare Advantage (MA) and are unaware of this threat to their choice, and

Whereas, ACO-REACH programs (formerly known as DCEs) are allowed to keep up to 40% of their revenue that they don't spend on healthcare services as profit and overhead; thereby, giving them a dangerous financial incentive to restrict seniors' care, and

Whereas, Medicare pays ACO-REACH programs (formerly known as DCEs) more money for patients with more complex diagnoses which in MA has resulted in the fraudulent practice known as "up coding," meaning that for-profit insurers exaggerate the seriousness of seniors' diagnoses, resulting in higher costs to Medicare, and

Whereas, Instead of filling the gaps in Medicare's coverage, the federal government has increasingly used Medicare funds to subsidize private insurance companies, significantly increasing its administrative costs, burdening doctors with extra paperwork, and providing new opportunity for fraudulent billing by private insurers, and

Whereas, the Congressional Budget Office has projected insolvency of the Medicare Hospital Trust in 2026 which provides care for 52.6 million seniors,

Therefore be it Resolved that the Humboldt Progressive Democrats demands that Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services and President Biden terminate the ACO-REACH program, and

Be it Further Resolved that the Humboldt Progressive Democrats opposes Medicare privatization and work toward ending the ACO/REACH program.

Hélène Rouvier, Chairperson

October 19, 2022