

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of HB 1637

I support HB1637 and contracting a Medicare Administrator to ensure populations entitled to Medicare are educated about the enrollment process and critical timelines.

TARGET POPULATIONS

- 1) Children who qualify for Medicare due to disability including a cancer diagnosis.
- 2) Self-employed persons and workers in small businesses with less than 20 employees.
- 3) Medicare beneficiaries returning to the US from abroad.
- 4) Individuals entitled to Medicare due to age or disability recently released from prison.
- 5) Individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income who may not understand how to transition to Medicare insurance

I have worked with individuals from each of the above categories. Many times they end up on MEDICAID because they are unaware they are entitled to MEDICARE, and/or do not understand the enrollment process.

Our self-employed populations or workers in small companies can end up paying lifetime late enrollment penalties. Many are unaware of the process to transition to Medicare at age 65 when Medicare becomes primary for some individuals. In this case, a serious accident or illness would not be covered by their employer coverage if Medicare is primary and they never enrolled.

I have many examples and testimonies from individuals who were unable to find help.

There are resources and information who follow the natural progression of aging in to Medicare, however, it would be helpful to all of our residents who are entitled to Medicare to be informed. Additionally, it would certainly relieve the burden on our state if medicaid recipients entitled to Medicare insurance were appropriately enrolled. In those situations, Medicare would be the primary payer and the state would pay second.

I look forward to meeting with anyone who would like to hear from some of the actual individuals who experienced problems transitioning to Medicare outside of the normal age-in process.

Sincerely,

Martha Khlopin



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By: Martha Khlopin, Medicare Radio Host

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