



April 27, 2020

Re: Medicare Crisis Program Act – Support

Dear Senator Sanders and Congresswomen Jayapal:

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) is honored to support the Medicare Crisis Program Act. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 270 affiliated organizations.

While the majority of the CARA members are currently on the Medicare program, we all believe that Health Care is a Human Right and support expanding Medicare to all Americans.

We understand the Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act empowers Medicare to pay all the costs of treatment for the uninsured, and covers all out-of-pocket costs for those with public and private insurance.

CARA consistently hears about the difficulty seniors have with the cost of prescription drugs. We are particularly pleased with the provision in this bill that allows Medicare to purchase pharmaceuticals at the same prices as the VA, as this has been a long-term goal of CARA.

While this bill falls short of CARA's call for expanding Medicare to All, it would provide immediate relief to all Americans-employed and unemployed, insured and uninsured-and lift some of the administrative burdens for our beleaguered healthcare providers while ensuring that they be adequately reimbursed for the services they are delivering.

We look forward to working with you on advancing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly
Legislative Director
415-533-5244