Dear (Representative/Senator) _____ ,

We are writing on behalf of Health Care Is a Human Right WA, a community-labor coalition of over 60 organizations, to urge you **not to sign the annual AHIP letter** addressed to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, praising and supporting Medicare Advantage.

According to research and findings from Congress, reports from the Inspector General at Health and Human Services, articles in the *New York Times* and other journals, large insurers in the Medicare Advantage program have engaged in inappropriate delays and denials of care, upcoding, and fraudulent practices to increase their profits. They are essentially stealing from the US Government and taxpayers which is resulting in a significant threat to the Medicare Trust Fund. In the year 2020 alone, the *New York Times* estimated that $12 billion was defrauded from the Medicare Trust Fund.

These reports show that:

- MA is **driving up Medicare spending by billions of dollars a year.**
- MA plans are **inappropriately delaying and denying care** to people with costly and complex conditions and that this behavior is **widespread and ongoing**.
- MA plans are continuing **not to disclose complete and accurate patient encounter data** needed to assess quality of care, as required.
- People disproportionately are **leaving MA plans at the end of life**.

The American Hospital Association underscored these and other issues In an **August 31, 2022 letter to CMS** expressing:

> *"[S]everal serious concerns about the negative effects of Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) practices and policies, which impede patient access to health care services, create inequities in coverage between Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in MA versus those enrolled in Traditional Medicare, and in some cases, even directly harm Medicare beneficiaries through unnecessary delays in care or outright denial of covered services. As enumerated below, such practices include abuse of utilization management programs, inappropriate denial of medically necessary services that would be covered by Traditional Medicare, requirements for unreasonable levels of documentation to demonstrate clinical appropriateness, inadequate provider networks to ensure patient access, and unilateral restrictions in health plan coverage in the middle of a contract year, among others. These practices add billions of wasted dollars to the health care system, are a major driver of health care worker burnout, and worst of all, harm the health of Medicare beneficiaries."*

Health Care Is a Human Right WA urges you **not to sign the AHIP letter**. If you already signed the letter, we ask that you please reconsider and withdraw your name. You can contact us at hchr.cochairs@gmail.com if you have any questions. Please also let us know whether or not you have signed or plan to sign the AHIP letter.

Sincerely & thanks,

Nathan Rodke, Sami Alloy, Ronnie Shure

HCHR Steering Committee Co-chairs