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Our Wisconsin Revolution Stands Against the Medicare Direct Contracting Program OWR Calls on Elected Officials to Stop the Privatization of Medicare

The United States is currently the only industrialized country that does not guarantee healthcare to all of its citizens and the only country that has medical bankruptcies. As a result, over 45 thousand people die per year. That is why OWR fully supports Medicare for All. Everyone in this country deserves quality healthcare regardless of age, race, or economic status. Despite not having a universal healthcare system, we must protect our current Medicare system.

Under the Trump administration, the Department of Health and Human Services launched a pilot program known as Medicare Direct Contracting, or DCE. This program has continued under Biden appointee Xavier Becerra. DCE can automatically enroll medicare beneficiaries into a third-party commercial insurer and other for profit companies to manage care for seniors. If this program is left unchecked, more than 30 million seniors could be enrolled into this program without their knowledge or consent, since DCE is not overseen by Congress. DCE could lead to higher cost for taxpayers, and less freedom for seniors to manage their own care. Right now Medicare spends 98% of its budget on patient care. Commercial insurers are only required to spend 60% of their revenues on patient care and can keep the rest for their own profit. Medicare is clearly more efficient than any private insurer who profits off our aging and illness.

Our Wisconsin Revolution stands firmly against this blatant attempt to privatize Medicare. This is a clear attempt to pad the pockets of wall street and others for profit entities. We will not allow their greed to take down the most popular program that exists in the United States. We are calling on Wisconsin's elected congressional delegation; Representatives Bryan Steil, Ron Kind, Gwen Moore, Scott Fitzgerald, Glenn Grothman, Tom Tiffany, Mike Gallagher, Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, as well as the Biden administration to put an end to this program immediately.

Please join us to fight this attempt to Privatize Medicare by signing this petition. <u>https://pnhp.salsalabs.org/DCEpetitionSeptember2021/index.html</u>