

May 28, 2024

The Honorable Thomas Carper
U.S. Senate
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
U.S. House of Representatives
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD
U.S. Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Carper, Senator Cassidy, Representative Wenstrup and Representative Blumenauer:

We, the undersigned organizations, write in support of the PACE Part D Choice Act (S. 1703/H.R. 3549), which would increase the affordability of the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) for Medicare beneficiaries. Recognized as one of the pioneers of integration, coordination and financial alignment, PACE enables older adults with high care needs to live at home rather than in a nursing facility.

PACE interdisciplinary teams ensure enrolled individuals receive all needed care and services around the clock, including every Medicare and Medicaid covered service along with meals, transportation and personal care. This person-centered construct empowers the PACE model of care to achieve the Triple Aim of better care and patient experience, improved population health and lower costs while facilitating older individuals to receive care at home and in their communities. PACE now serves over 75,000 older adults, most with Medicare and Medicaid coverage.

However, for those covered only by Medicare, PACE is often unaffordable due to the exorbitant cost of PACE Part D prescription drug coverage. Today, the \$1,135 average monthly premium for PACE Part D coverage is 22 times higher than the \$48 average monthly premium for a standalone Part D prescription drug plan. This notable disparity will remain even when the \$2,000 cap on Part D out of pocket expenses goes into effect in 2025 since PACE is prohibited from charging deductibles or coinsurance. The PACE Part D Choice Act would level the playing field by allowing Medicare beneficiaries wanting to enroll in PACE to choose whichever Part D plan is the most affordable for them.

We commend your leadership seeking to increase the availability of PACE for Medicare beneficiaries through the PACE Part D Choice Act. Eliminating the significant financial disincentive of high Part D costs will empower more older adults to receive the care they need in the setting they prefer—home. If you have questions, please contact Francesca Fierro O'Reilly with the National PACE Association at FrancescaO@npaonline.org.

Sincerely,

AARP

Allies for Independence

Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's Impact Movement

American Association on Health and Disability

Family Caregiver Alliance

Gerontological Society of America

HIGN at NYU Meyers

Justice in Aging

Lakeshore Foundation

LeadingAge

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

National Rural Health Association

West Health Institute