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AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC
COMPETITION BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0548

July 24, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

As of today, California has over 6.6 million Medicare beneficiaries, the largest number of any state in our country.¹ While California's population growth has slowed in recent years, by 2040, California's 60+ age population will grow to over 12.6 million, according to the California Department of Finance.² Contributing to the short- and long-term challenges for our aging population, we are concerned about rising inflation, unprecedented increases in federal government spending, and the negative outcomes it has on California's residents.

Unfortunately, health care costs have skyrocketed. Seniors are witnessing this impact significantly in their Medicare drug plans also known as Medicare Part D. In fact, this year, seniors are witnessing the largest increase in premiums in Medicare drug plans ever, with average premiums increasing by 21.5% in 2024. This year, seniors are also seeing the fewest number of Medicare drug plans available since the existence of the Part D program in 2006.

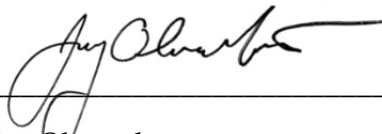
The Administration's Medicare policies have led to two outcomes: fewer prescription drug plans to choose from and increased premiums. There is no information or data to prove that things are changing for the better and we are concerned that the Administration's current approach is heading our seniors down in the direction of more costs and fewer options. In addition, the Administration has failed to come to the table and work with California Republicans to address the surge in health care costs across the board. Instead, current Medicare policies are making it more difficult for patients to afford to pay for prescription drugs.

Instead of spending billions of taxpayer dollars to hire bureaucrats to enact failed policies, bipartisan efforts are urgently needed to ensure that seniors can have more access to affordable drug plans. As the open enrollment period nears, we hope that you change course and put faith in American ingenuity moving forward.

Sincerely,



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress

¹ [OMII \(ca.gov\)](https://omii.ca.gov/)

² aging.ca.gov/download.ashx?IE0rcNUV0za6LzT7Mylpzw%3D%3D



Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



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Tom McClintock
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Young Kim
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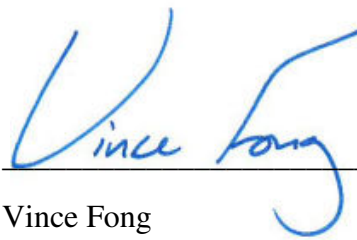
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John Duarte
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Kevin Kiley
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Vince Fong
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