

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 12, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write with alarm at recent actions by your Administration that put Medicare and Medicaid at risk – threatening access to care for 140 million Americans. On February 5, Elon Musk and representatives of his Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) gained access to key payment and contracting systems at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the agency that administers these vital programs. Masquerading as a false crusade against waste, fraud, and abuse, Musk appears intent to break the programs that seniors, people with disabilities, children, and families rely on to get their health care. We write to say no to Elon Musk and DOGE, and demand hands off Medicare or Medicaid. We strongly oppose any efforts by Musk – or anyone else in your administration – cutting or damaging these vital programs. Medicare and Medicaid must not be raided to pay for tax cuts for billionaires.

Medicare and Medicaid are lifelines for millions of Americans. In 2024, 68 million seniors and people with disabilities seniors relied on Medicare coverage for essential health care, including hospital visits, screenings for cancer, diabetes, and depression, and prescription drugs.¹ Nearly 80 million Americans relied on Medicaid, making it the largest public health insurance program in the United States.² Medicaid provides funding to states for services at nursing homes, hospitals, rural health clinics as well as home health services, addiction and mental health services, and family planning.³ Americans rely on Medicaid for pregnancy and childbirth, as well as long-term services and supports to care for people with disabilities, older adults, and chronically ill Americans.⁴

¹ Medicare Monthly Enrollment, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (page last modified Dec. 27, 2024), <https://data.cms.gov/summary-statistics-on-beneficiary-enrollment/medicare-and-medicare-reports/medicare-monthly-enrollment>; Leah Sarnoff, *Everything to know about Medicaid, the largest US public health insurance program*, <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/medicaid-largest-us-public-health-insurance-program/story?id=118189440#:~:text=As%20of%20October%202024%2C%20the,Children's%20Health%20Insurance%20Program%20enrollees>.

² Leah Sarnoff, *Everything to know about Medicaid, the largest US public health insurance program*, <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/medicaid-largest-us-public-health-insurance-program/story?id=118189440#:~:text=As%20of%20October%202024%2C%20the,Children's%20Health%20Insurance%20Program%20enrollees>.

³ *Mandatory & Optional Benefits*, Medicaid.gov, <https://www.medicare.gov/medicaid/benefits/mandatory-optional-medicare-benefits/index.html>.

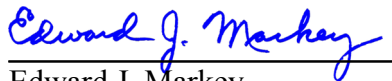
⁴ Priya Chidambaram and Alice Burns, *How Many People Use Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports and How Much Does Medicaid Spend on Those People?*, Kaiser Family Foundation (Aug. 14, 2023), <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/how-many-people-use-medicare-long-term-services-and-supports-and-how-much-does-medicare-spend-on-those-people/>.

But now, DOGE is invading CMS, posing immeasurable risks to Americans' health care. DOGE representatives, with no training or expertise, could make unilateral, politically motivated decisions to target both beneficiaries and health care providers while blocking access to care and essential payments for services. Every cut risks Americans paying more, waiting longer, and wading through more insurance red tape for care. Every cut risks hospitals and community health centers struggling harder to keep their doors open and forcing health providers and workers out of their jobs.

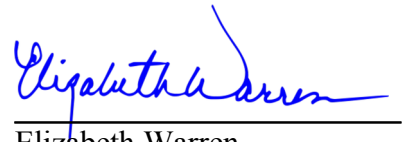
We continue to fight for a health care system that works better for all Americans, so they experience lower costs, shorter wait times, and receive better care. But your Administration, Elon Musk, and DOGE have already made that harder. Your Administration is already responsible for the shut-down of Medicaid portals across all 50 states, disruptions to vital health care communication, closures of community health centers, and significant delays in funding for life-saving health research. Cuts to Medicare and Medicaid will only serve to deepen the harm.

It is dangerously unacceptable that an unelected Musk and his unqualified acolytes have access to sensitive CMS systems and are ready to bypass Congress to make life and death decisions affecting millions of Americans. No one asked for this lawless approach to our critical government health care systems. We urge you to stop this threat to Americans' health care, now.

Sincerely,



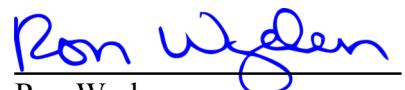
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator




Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



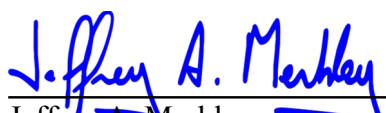
Peter Welch
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



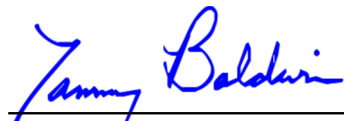
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



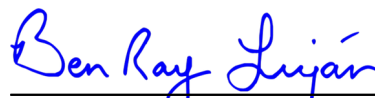
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



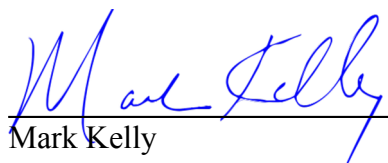
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United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
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Adam B. Schiff
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