



November 15, 2023

Senator Rand Paul
295 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Paul

The undersigned organizations are writing to endorse the *Medicare Patient Choice Act*. This legislation would add physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and chiropractors to an *existing* Medicare policy that allows Medicare providers to privately contract with beneficiaries, after they formally “opt out” of the Medicare program. Currently, most Medicare-defined physicians including medical doctors, doctors of osteopathic medicine, dentists, optometrists, and podiatrists have the authority to opt out of the Medicare program and privately contract with Medicare beneficiaries. Medicare also allows other healthcare practitioners, including nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical social workers, psychologists, nurse midwives, and dieticians to privately contract or ‘opt out’. The *Medicare Patient Choice Act* would modernize the current opt-out policy, by adding physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and chiropractors to this existing program.

We would like to thank you for your leadership on this important issue. By allowing these remaining healthcare specialties to opt-out of Medicare, you are providing Medicare beneficiaries with greater choice about who they receive healthcare services from, and what services they are able to receive. Further, independent scoring has demonstrated that this legislation has potential cost savings of at least \$140 million over 10 years.

We look forward to working with you to help advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Academy of Doctors of Audiology
American Chiropractic Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association Private Practice Section
American Speech-Language Hearing Association