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The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

April 20, 2022

Dear Secretary Becerra,

The Association of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO) has learned that Medicare has finalized its plan to restrict coverage for the Alzheimer's drug Aduhelm to patients participating in clinical trials. We also understand that you soon plan to decide on whether to lower Medicare premiums for older adults due to this Aduhelm coverage decision.

AARO supports this reduction in the premium for Medicare Part B.

Americans abroad often make trips back to the United States, and/or even move back permanently after retirement, for family or other reasons. But if Medicare Part B is not started at age 65, there is a 10% premium surcharge for each year of delay, for life.

The amount of the Medicare Part B premium is crucial to overseas Americans. Americans abroad, who cannot use Medicare in their countries of residence, face the choice between starting Medicare at age 65 by paying premiums for care they can only sporadically receive or, if they don't sign up, by having the lifetime burden of premium surcharges if they later resume residence in the United States and then commence Medicare.

The premium increase for 2022 made each of these options much more costly, which is why the reduction you are considering would have a very positive impact for non-resident Americans.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Doris L. Speer
President, Association of Americans Resident Overseas