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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8002**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senator Hasegawa

Prefiled 12/23/24.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE  
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
8 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, Original Medicare was created in 1965 as a public good  
10 to provide a national health care system for seniors and the disabled  
11 in the United States and has proven to be our most efficient and  
12 effective public health care program with administrative costs  
13 accounting for only two to three percent of Medicare spending; and

14 WHEREAS, Since the federal government has created various for-  
15 profit privatized health care programs within Medicare including Part  
16 D which covers prescription drugs, Medigap which are supplemental  
17 plans to cover Medicare Part B's 20 percent copays, and Medicare  
18 Advantage which is permitted to take up to 15 percent of every  
19 Medicare dollar for administration and profits for managing Medicare  
20 claims; and

21 WHEREAS, Recent reports by the department of health and human  
22 services inspector general, academic researchers, and investigative  
23 journalists have uncovered wide-ranging fraudulent practices,

1 confirming that upcoding, overpayments, delaying medically necessary  
2 care, and the denial of claims by insurers and other private  
3 businesses managing Medicare claims, together, account for  
4 overcharging the Medicare trust fund and Medicare beneficiaries by as  
5 much as \$75 billion to \$140 billion annually; and

6 WHEREAS, Insurers and wall street are fiercely lobbying to gain a  
7 larger share of the soon-to-be \$1.6 trillion of annual Medicare  
8 spending by further privatizing Medicare and turning it into a profit  
9 center, thus hastening the depletion of the Medicare trust fund at a  
10 time when Medicare beneficiaries are among the most vulnerable  
11 populations served in health care, and need more, not fewer benefits;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray in opposition  
13 to Medicare privatization and urge the federal government to level  
14 the playing field between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage so  
15 that Medicare beneficiaries will not suffer additional costs by  
16 choosing Original Medicare and will have a genuine choice between the  
17 public and private program as a step towards increasing health care  
18 equity by:

19 (1) Eliminating the Original Medicare 20 percent copays and  
20 setting an out-of-pocket cap on medical expenses;

21 (2) Adding benefits to Original Medicare such as dental, vision,  
22 and hearing coverage as is permitted in private Medicare Advantage  
23 plans;

24 (3) Eliminating the allowed excessive administrative costs and  
25 profits in the Medicare Advantage programs; and

26 (4) Recouping funds for the Medicare trust fund from the Medicare  
27 Advantage overpayments, fraud, and abuse that have been documented in  
28 academic studies, congressional reports, and investigations by the  
29 department of health and human services in order to support a robust  
30 Original Medicare system that will lower costs and improve benefits,  
31 access, and equity for all seniors and disabled beneficiaries.

32 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
33 transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United  
34 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and  
35 Human Services, the President of the United States Senate, the  
36 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress  
37 from the State of Washington.

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