

DE State Medicare Advantage Letter of Support

September 9, 2022

Dear Senators and Representatives:

ChristianaCare and Bayhealth, the two largest health care providers in Delaware, are committed to ensuring access to high-quality, value-based care that creates better health for the communities we serve.

In July 2021, our two health systems entered into a risk-sharing arrangement with Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware to launch Delaware's new Medicare Advantage plan, which is currently serving more than 3,400 Delaware seniors. The affiliation blends Highmark's expertise in managing risk with ChristianaCare and Bayhealth's expertise in providing high-quality healthcare and care management. We support the Delaware State Employees Benefits Committee's (SEBC) decision to transition the health insurance coverage for state pensioners to Highmark's Medicare Advantage plan.

Through our risk-sharing agreement with Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware, we recognize the importance of participation in a well-designed and well-implemented Medicare Advantage plan that can offer patients access to excellent care with affordable and predictable out-of-pocket costs. The custom Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware Medicare Advantage PPO plan for State of Delaware Medicare retirees and dependents is an exceptional plan that continues to provide the comprehensive benefits Delaware retirees receive today (100 percent coverage for all Medicare coverage benefits within the United States), plus additional benefits not currently covered.

Importantly, this plan includes a strong focus on preventive care, combined with a suite of care management and disease management programs that will help members better manage chronic conditions, such as diabetes and hypertension, so that they can prevent the need for hospitalization and emergency care. The results are better coordination of patient care, better patient outcomes, and lower costs.

We acknowledge that not all Medicare Advantage plans are created equal, and some plans around the nation have come under criticism. However, when designed and implemented well, Medicare Advantage plans align insurers, providers and beneficiaries on a common goal: better health and a better experience of care at affordable costs.

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We are confident that the Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware Medicare Advantage PPO plan for State of Delaware Medicare retirees and dependents is a well-designed plan with a strong clinical focus that will benefit its members. The move to this plan is a step forward for Delaware and Delaware state employees.

If you would like to discuss this further, please reach out to our Government Affairs teams, and we would be happy to schedule a conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken L. Silverstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending upwards and to the right at the end.

Ken L. Silverstein, M.D., MBA
Chief Clinical Officer
ChristianaCare

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Siegelman". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large, prominent "G" at the beginning.

Gary Siegelman, M.D., MSc, CPE
Chief Medical Officer
Bayhealth