

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement by Medicare Rights Center President Joe Baker on President Obama's FY2013 Budget

New York, NY– The President's inclusion of provisions that raise revenues demonstrates a real commitment to a balanced approach, one that will better protect those with Medicare and Medicaid from more substantial cuts to these programs and therefore preserve their access to quality, affordable health care. However, proposals that would shift greater costs onto those with Medicare, half of whom live on about 22,000 per year or less, do not appropriately target the root cause of growing costs in the Medicare program, which are growing health care costs overall. We must encourage policies, like those included in the President's budget and the Affordable Care Act (ACA), that attempt to bend the cost curve in health care long-term. These policies include plans to combat waste, fraud and abuse, improve payment incentives to providers to emphasize quality of care over quantity of services delivered, and lower prices on prescription drugs for Medicare and Medicare beneficiaries.

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Medicare Rights Center is a national, nonprofit consumer service organization that works to ensure access to affordable health care for older adults and people with disabilities through counseling and advocacy, educational programs, and public policy initiatives.

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