

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

September 8, 2026

The Honorable Mehmet Oz
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Oz:

I write regarding the recent decision by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to discontinue the Part D Premium Stabilization Demonstration in contract year (CY) 2027. Mainers have expressed their concerns and confusion about how the discontinuation of this program might affect the cost of their premiums. I urge CMS to communicate with beneficiaries about prescription drug plans and Part D premiums under the CY 2027 framework and to maintain affordable plan options in the year ahead.

CMS began this voluntary program in CY 2025 to help stabilize premiums during implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act's Part D redesigned benefit, but the agency has since indicated that Part D plans' bids for CY 2027 demonstrate that plans understand, and have accounted for, the new dynamics created by the redesigned benefit.

As a result, the Part D program will now operate in the marketplace without the stabilization demonstration. Beneficiaries are concerned about how this decision will affect the cost of their prescriptions, as well as what it means for the Part D program as a whole.

Beneficiaries need information about the implications of this change and should know about CMS's ongoing Part D efforts. I ask that CMS provide robust communication to seniors to assure them that their Part D plans will still be available in the next year. I also request that CMS provide ample information to beneficiaries about premium costs and available options for Part D.

While I understand that some seniors' premiums will decrease due to this change, and some seniors may only have a small increase in costs, I find it troubling that **45 percent** of beneficiaries could see monthly increases between \$11 and \$20, with some paying up to \$240 a year more. As you know, seniors on fixed incomes can face health challenges when premiums increase and health care becomes more unaffordable. Therefore, it is critical that CMS ensure that beneficiaries continue to have options for affordable prescription drug plans and are aware of those options.

While CMS is preparing to release its CY 2027 expectations for Part D plans in September, I am asking that you provide swift clarification for beneficiaries on the outlook for their Part D premiums in the coming year and to confirm that affordable prescription drug plans will remain available for seniors. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan M. Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and the last name "Collins" being more legible than the middle initial "M".

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator