March 29, 2016

Dear Mrs. Lamb,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me. I appreciate your engagement and the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

As you know, Medicare is an essential program for our nation’s seniors and their families. Medicare benefits are earned over a lifetime of work. These earned benefits are profoundly important to the people of the Inland Empire, which is why I remain firmly opposed to proposals that reduce Medicare coverage, increase costs for seniors on fixed incomes, or raise the retirement age. I voted against the Republican Budget earlier this year because it would end Medicare as we know it, transforming it into a voucher program that would force seniors to pay thousands of dollars more for the same coverage they have today. I also opposed the plan because of the irresponsible cuts it would have made to Medicaid, which many seniors depend on for their care.

Similarly, many seniors choose Medicare Advantage for their care. In San Bernardino County, nearly 60 percent of seniors opt for care through Medicare Advantage. Under Medicare Advantage, the federal government pays a per-person amount to private health plans to provide Medicare-covered benefits to seniors. Those enrolled in MA plans receive Medicare benefits, but managed by a private insurer. When the Administration recently proposed cuts to Medicare Advantage rates, I joined my colleagues to oppose the cuts, which were ultimately rolled back.

We must work to reduce the deficit and balance the budget, but we cannot do it on the backs of seniors and working families who have paid into Medicare their entire working lives. Please know that as Congress debates health care issues I will be sure to keep your thoughts in mind and I will remain a strong supporter of Medicare. I will oppose proposals that cut these hard-earned benefits.

I am honored to serve as your representative in Congress where I am committed to fighting for the people of the Inland Empire, the place my family has called home for four generations. I encourage you to stay in touch by signing up for our e-newsletter at aguilar.house.gov. Thank you again and please do not hesitate to contact me in the future; my door is always open.

Sincerely,

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress