



United States Senate

medicare

, 1965

Dear :

The question of providing medical care under social security was a basic issue in the Presidential campaign last fall and when the outcome of the election resulted in a tremendous majority in the Congress for the Democratic Party, it was a foregone conclusion that there would be a medical care proposal approved by this Congress. This is further evidenced by the tremendous margin of the vote, passing the House of Representatives by 313 to 115 and the Senate 68 to 21.

Since there was no possibility of preventing the passage of this legislation, it then became a question of constructing the best possible and most workable bill. After many months of hearings and executive sessions of the Ways and Means Committee in the House and the Finance Committee in the Senate, a bill was devised and it is this measure which has now passed both Houses of Congress and is before a conference committee to work out the differences.

Each year for at least the last twenty years there has been a medical care proposal presented to the Congress and it was only a matter of time before some action would be taken in this field. I was not happy with some provisions in the bill, but after it has been in effect for a period of time, we will be able to determine its effectiveness in applying itself to the problems in this area. Then there will be an opportunity to make changes, improvements, deletions, and other modifications to assure that this program will remain constructive and progressive and as light a burden as possible upon the taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

MEDICAL CARE BILL ROBO

..., 1965

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Dear ...:

The House of Representatives has passed the medical care bill by a margin of 313 to 115. This proposal includes the Administration's original bill providing for a compulsory program under Social Security as well as portions of other bills which were introduced to deal with this problem.

The bill, H.R. 6675, now goes to the Senate Finance Committee of which I am a member and we plan to conduct extensive public hearings beginning shortly after Easter.

This will have good attention and we will do the best we can although I need not remind you of the tremendous majority which the Democrats enjoy in the Senate as well.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen



United States Senate

MEDICAL CARE ROBO

Dear :

After many weeks of study and consideration, the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives has ordered a medical care proposal to be reported to the whole House.

This will include portions of the Administration's bill as well as provisions of other proposals which have been suggested to deal with the question of medical care for our elderly citizens.

After this has been handled by the House it will be sent to the Senate Finance Committee, of which I am a member, and you may therefore be certain it will have my most careful attention and consideration and that I will be mindful of your interest.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen



United States Senate

ELDERCARE

..., 1965

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Dear ...:

Thank you for your letter urging my support of an alternative plan for medical care for the aged.

I have always supported programs to assure adequate medical care for our older people. Any compassionate citizen wants his tax dollars to provide health care for the truly underprivileged. It is false, however, to equate such compassion for those in need with a government program for everyone, rich and poor.

The dangers of ultimate complete government preemption of medical services under a costly bureaucracy argues further against the King-Anderson bill.

Certainly a broadening of the Kerr-Hills medical assistance for the aged program is preferable to the Administration's scheme.

Be assured that any plan which reaches the floor of the Senate will receive my careful scrutiny.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen



United States Senate

MEDICARE Robo

Jan 12 , 1965

Dear :

I have always supported programs to assure adequate medical care for older people.

A number of bills which would expand federal participation in programs to help older people meet medical expenses have been and will be introduced. Each has its own advantages and disadvantages and deserves careful study.

Whatever proposals reach the Senate floor, however, will undoubtedly be changed from the versions originally introduced.

A prudent legislative position would not permit a firm commitment for any bill until it is in final form for voting.

Certain dangers which I shall look for in any proposal, however, appear fundamental:

1. The danger of failing to provide adequate care for those truly in need of help while providing limited services to those well able to pay;
2. The danger of placing unfair burdens on lower-income working people, as might be the c 1965 case with a payroll tax, and;
3. The danger of creating a mammoth federal medical bureaucracy which could stifle the free development of America's great medical care system.

It is my disposition to oppose any bill which embodies one or more of these dangers.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen



United States Senate

January 12, 1965

Medicare robo

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Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

MEDICARE ROBO
MAY 20, 1965

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Dear ...:

The Senate Finance Committee of which I am a member has completed an extensive round of public hearings on the so-called medical care bill, H.R. 6675, which passed the House on April 8, 1965.

We will now take the bill up in Executive Session and our deliberations promise to be quite protracted in view of the complexity of the bill.

Be assured this will have good attention and we will do the best we can.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen