

Jill Vergara
Majority Leader Pro Tempore, Fairfield RTM
271 Old Post Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06824

March 3, 2021

Connecticut House of Representatives
Human Services Committee

Re: HB 6446—An Act Concerning the Governor’s Budget Recommendations for Human Services; Asset Test for Eligibility under the Medicare Savings Program

To the Honorable Human Services Committee Members:

My name is Jill Vergara. I have served on Fairfield’s Senior and Disabled Tax Relief Committee for the past five years and have seen first-hand how essential the Medicare Savings Program is to helping many of our most vulnerable residents in Fairfield. When the State had considered lowering the income eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program a few years ago, I received many constituent letters, several from the low-income elder housing facility in my district, Sullivan McKinney. For many of these constituents, the Medicare Savings Program has served as a life preserver buoying them through some very difficult times.

Please do not put additional and unnecessary participation limits on the Medicare Savings Program, like the proposed asset test, at this very difficult time when many of our seniors desperately need the help. I strongly believe that it is in the State’s best interests to maintain the Medicare Savings Program as is, with no additional asset test. Such an asset test will restrict participation at a precarious time when many are already falling through the cracks. In addition to being overly restrictive, such an asset test would be very difficult to administer, and therefore, likely costly.

An asset test would hurt many of our seniors who need help now more than ever; and would be too administratively burdensome and potentially costly. Please reject the proposed asset cap for the Medicare Savings Plan.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jill Vergara