

I trust most PSCCuny retirees have been satisfied with Medicare as far as it approaches a single-payer governmental universal health plan, that most Western European countries and Canada enjoy. At this very moment the US Congress is even debating increasing Medicare vision, hearing and dental coverage as well as regulations on the price of prescription drugs. I personally believe that CUNY retirees with relatively generous pensions would take a stand on behalf of Medicare against a move by Medicare Advantage to privatize our health care on the altar of a few ostensible, as yet unproven benefits. The Opt Out "penalty" is just another punitive proposal that retirees should address as arbitrary and capricious. Nevertheless, if promulgated, the penalty for Opting Out should be a small price to pay in defense against a further slide to the privatization of health care in the US.

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