



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21235

REFER TO: OI:P

May 19, 1966

Honorable Bob Dole
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RECEIVED

MAY 20 1966

BOB DOLE

Dear Mr. Dole:

As you know, May 31 is the last day for people who reached age 65 before March 1, 1966, to enroll in the Supplementary Medical Insurance Program established by the 1965 social security amendments and have their coverage under the program begin on July 1, 1966, when the new program starts. A person who reached age 65 before March 1 and who does not enroll by May 31 will generally not be able to enroll until the first general enrollment period, in October-December 1967, and will not be able to have coverage under the program until July 1, 1968.

Nationally, 90 percent of the aged have enrolled in the new medical insurance program and an additional five percent have elected not to enroll. There are about 1 million aged people--about five percent of the aged--from whom we have not received a decision on enrollment. We do not know whether these people do not wish to enroll in the program, are confused about it, or are simply unaware of it. The last two columns of the enclosed table show for each State the number of aged people who have not yet informed us of their enrollment decision.

In the interest of making every possible effort to assure that the people who are affected by the May 31 deadline are aware of it and of the loss of valuable medical insurance protection that will result if they do not enroll by that date, I am sending you some news releases that you may find helpful if you wish to give further publicity to the enrollment deadline.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Ball
Commissioner of Social Security

Enclosures 4

(Newsletter Item)

MEDICARE DEADLINE IS MAY 31st

Enrollment for medicare's voluntary medical insurance plan is nearing a new deadline, and the Social Security Administration reports that 90 percent of our older Americans have signed up for doctor-bill insurance under social security--a total, as of May 11th, of 17.2 million people. Beginning in July, these folks will pay \$3 a month and receive valuable protection against the costs of medical care for the rest of their lives. The \$3 monthly payment is half the cost of the insurance; the government pays the other half.

In (State), about _____ people 65 or over, _____ percent of those eligible, have signed up.

I think this is a pretty good showing. However, there are some people in _____ who haven't yet made a decision on medicare.

With the final medicare sign-up deadline fast approaching, I hope every one of my constituents will do his or her best to make sure older people know about medicare and about the need to sign up if they want the voluntary medical insurance.

The deadline is May 31st, the day after Memorial Day--the _____ folks in _____ who are 65 or older and who haven't yet told Social Security about their decision on medicare should do so before that date. If they don't, they will generally have to wait more than 2 years before their protection against the costs of medical care can begin.

DRAFT LOCAL RELEASE

For people now 65 or over, the final deadline for enrollment in medicare's voluntary doctor-bill insurance plan is May 31st, _____ today reminded the people of (State).

"The Social Security Administration has reported to me," he said, "that 17.2 million older people, or 90 percent of those 65 or over in the United States, have signed up for the voluntary medical insurance to supplement their basic hospital insurance under medicare." About 400,000 have enrolled since the extension of the original deadline of March 31st.

"Beginning on July 1st, these people will pay \$3 a month and will receive valuable help in paying the costs of medical care. This is half the cost of the insurance; the government pays the other half."

"In (State), _____ people have signed up -- _____ percent of the people 65 or over. But _____ have not yet told Social Security whether or not they want to sign up."

_____ encouraged relatives and friends of older people to check to make sure they have heard about medicare and about the need to sign up if they want the voluntary medical insurance.

"The social security office is the place to sign up," he said, "and now is the time to do it."

1 - minute radio or television announcement:

I am _____.

I want to ask your help in getting an important message about medicare to people 65 or over who may not have heard it. The message is this: now you have until May 31 to enroll for the voluntary part of medicare, which will help to pay your doctor bills beginning in July. The Government will pay half the cost of this insurance for you, and this will make your share only \$3 a month. Ninety percent of all Americans 65 or older have already enrolled. Only a few have said that they do not want this insurance, and many of these have now changed their minds. Even if you first said you did not want medical insurance, you may still change your mind and take it if you apply by May 31. If anyone you know is 65 or older and wants to enroll for medical insurance under medicare, please ask him to get in touch with the social security office right away.

Enrollment for Supplementary Medical Insurance Benefits
under the
Health Insurance Program for People 65 or Older

Selected estimates relating to enrollment status as of
May 11, 1966, by State
(Numbers in thousands)

State	Total number of persons aged 65 and over, July 1, 1966 I	Persons who have made an election <u>1/</u>			Persons who have not yet made an election <u>1/</u>	
		Persons who have enrolled <u>2/</u>		Persons who have elected not to enroll IV	Social security and railroad retirement beneficiaries who have not yet responded <u>3/</u> V	All other persons aged 65 and over (have not yet applied) VI
		Number II	Percent of total population III			
Total.....	19,100	17,153	90	905	395	647
Alabama.....	296	260	88	13	7	16
Alaska.....	7	5	71	1	(4/)	1
Arizona.....	126	109	87	7	3	7
Arkansas.....	217	195	90	13	5	4
California.....	1,658	1,517	91	56	32	53
Colorado.....	177	163	92	7	3	4
Connecticut.....	276	263	95	7	4	2
Delaware.....	41	38	93	1	1	1
Dist. of Columbia.....	74	60	81	6	3	5
Florida.....	758	678	89	32	14	34
Georgia.....	335	291	87	26	8	10
Hawaii.....	38	34	89	1	1	2
Idaho.....	66	58	88	4	1	3
Illinois.....	1,091	987	90	51	21	32
Indiana.....	484	435	90	29	11	9
Iowa.....	355	318	90	15	6	16
Kansas.....	262	218	83	25	6	13
Kentucky.....	321	286	89	18	6	11
Louisiana.....	275	243	88	14	10	8
Maine.....	114	106	93	4	2	2
Maryland.....	268	231	86	18	7	12
Massachusetts.....	630	588	93	18	12	12
Michigan.....	731	665	91	31	15	20
Minnesota.....	403	360	89	17	7	19
Mississippi.....	209	174	83	16	6	13
Missouri.....	543	466	86	38	12	27
Montana.....	69	63	91	3	1	2
Nebraska.....	179	156	87	11	4	8
Nevada.....	24	21	88	1	1	1
New Hampshire.....	74	67	91	5	1	1
New Jersey.....	658	616	94	17	10	15
New Mexico.....	64	55	86	4	2	3
New York.....	1,943	1,790	92	60	37	56
North Carolina.....	370	326	88	23	9	12
North Dakota.....	64	57	89	4	1	2
Ohio.....	984	876	89	53	19	36
Oklahoma.....	278	253	91	13	5	7
Oregon.....	211	189	90	11	5	6
Pennsylvania.....	1,231	1,111	90	57	24	39
Puerto Rico.....	158	100	63	31	7	20
Rhode Island.....	98	92	94	4	2	(4/)
South Carolina.....	176	150	85	11	5	10
South Dakota.....	80	71	89	4	1	4
Tennessee.....	350	316	90	17	7	10
Texas.....	896	800	89	35	22	39
Utah.....	71	63	89	3	2	3
Vermont.....	44	41	93	2	1	(4/)
Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa....	4	3	75	1	(4/)	(4/)
Virginia.....	334	291	87	22	8	13
Washington.....	309	276	89	16	7	10
West Virginia.....	188	171	91	9	3	5
Wisconsin.....	457	423	93	18	7	9
Wyoming.....	31	28	90	2	1	(4/)

1/ Estimates in columns II through VI have been adjusted to eliminate deaths between May 11, 1966 and July 1, 1966.

2/ Includes public assistance recipients covered under the "buying-in" agreements which had been signed by 22 States through April 30, 1966.

3/ Includes "uninsured" persons, i.e., persons not eligible for OASDI or railroad retirement benefits, who are entitled to hospital insurance benefits but who have not yet made an SMI election.

4/ Less than 500.