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OHIO, 3RD DISTRICT

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The Honorable Dr. Mehmet Oz
CMS Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: LDL-C Quality Measure in CMS 2025-2026 MUC List

Dear Administrator Oz,

I was pleased to learn about the proposed inclusion of an LDL-C quality measure in CMS's 2025-2026 Measures Under Consideration list. As co-chair of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition, I work closely with the American Heart Association, and this quality measure aligns with AHA guidelines and clinical recommendations. Cardiologists nationwide look to the AHA guidelines as the premier resource for how they shape their practices. I urge CMS to move forward implementing this proposed LDL-C quality measure as soon as possible to better align federal regulations with leading clinical guidelines.

As a native Ohioan, I have seen the devastating toll that heart disease places on my state. According to the Ohio Department of Health, on average, heart disease kills around 30,000 Ohioans annually, ranking 12th nationally in heart disease mortality. Nearly 6 percent of adults in Ohio have coronary heart disease and over 5 percent have suffered a heart attack. The numbers are particularly stark among Ohio's Black population, who face an 18% higher age-adjusted heart disease death rate than White Ohioans.¹ The impact that cardiovascular disease has had on Ohio is difficult to bear, which is why I will do whatever I can to improve patient outcomes for Ohioans and all other Americans.

Inclusion of this measure in the MUC List represents a significant step forward from existing statin-focused quality measures and more accurately reflects evidence-based care for patients with dyslipidemia. If adopted, this measure could deliver meaningful benefits for patients, families, caregivers, and clinicians by strengthening accountability and improving cardiovascular outcomes.

¹ "Cardiovascular Disease Prevention" *OhioHealth*.

I strongly encourage CMS to advance this measure through the review process and to consider its future inclusion across relevant Medicare quality programs, including the CMS Universal Foundation of measures. Sustained progress on LDL-C–focused quality measurement is essential to improving cardiovascular outcomes and ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries receive guideline-directed, equitable care.

I appreciate CMS’s continued engagement with Congress and stakeholders and look forward to continued collaboration to strengthen cardiovascular quality measurements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce Beatty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joyce" and last name "Beatty" clearly distinguishable.

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress