From: <u>Kimberly Carleson</u>

To: <u>Kimberly Carleson</u>; <u>Maguire, Jill (ATR)</u>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reject the proposal final judgment

**Date:** Monday, August 11, 2025 9:58:29 PM

Importance: High

Subject: Reject the Proposed Final Judgment – United States v. UnitedHealth Group Inc. and Amedisys Inc. (Case No. 1:24-cv-03267-JKB)

Dear Ms. Maguire,

I am urging the Court to reject the proposed settlement in UnitedHealth Group's (UHG) acquisition of Amedisys. This deal is not in the public interest, it is a roadmap for further consolidation, higher costs, reduced care access, and the elimination of independent providers.

UHG is already the largest and most powerful player in U.S. healthcare, controlling both the payment and delivery sides of care. This merger will only deepen that chokehold, allowing UHG to:

- -Steer patients to its own agencies, even when lower-quality care results
  - Deny or delay approvals to competing providers
  - Pay independents far below cost while overpaying its own subsidiaries

We've seen this playbook before—after UHG's 2023 LHC Group acquisition, independent agencies were driven out by reimbursement discrimination and arbitrary denials. Patients suffered reduced visits, delayed discharges, and worsened outcomes.

The proposed "fix" is a sham. Divesting 164 locations to Pennant Group and BrightSpring (both tied to private equity) will not restore competition. In fact, history shows such divestitures are often temporary—assets get flipped back to insurers at inflated prices, consolidating the market all over again. The odds that all 164 succeed without harm? 0.0027%. That's not a remedy—that's a guarantee of market failure.

Meanwhile, UHG is under investigation for over \$140 billion in Medicare Advantage overpayments. Yet the government proposes to reward them with even more market share. Even members of Congress have called for breaking up UHG due to its conflicts of interest.

This is not about one company buying another—it's about whether we allow a single corporate empire to control who gets care, how much they pay, and whether they live or die. The Court must reject this settlement to protect competition, patients, and the integrity of our healthcare system.

I am begging you, please make America healthy again. I deal with this large conglomerates daily. They do not care about any of us, just their bottom line. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,

## Kimberly Carleson



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