From: <u>Christine Dingeman</u>

To: ATR-Public-Comments-Tunney-Act-MB

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Big Medicine

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The Justice Department, recently gave in to the

Trump administration's pressure to reverse course on UnitedHealth Group's proposed \$3.3 billion acquisition of home health and hospice care provider Amedisys. Last year, the department sued to block the transaction, arguing that it would eliminate head-to-head competition between the merging parties that lowers costs, improves care quality, and betters working conditions for healthcare workers. But earlier this month it proposed to settle the case, caving to Big Medicine at the expense of vulnerable hospice patients and the workers who care for them.

U.S. District Judge James Bredar, who is presiding over the case, must use his authority under the 1974 Tunney Act to scrutinize the Justice Department's proposed settlement in the best interest of the public.

Big Medicine will not police itself or lower costs without legal mandates. The American people pay more for health care (including pharmaceuticals) than any other country, yet we do not have the best outcomes from care. This is tragic and unconscionable.

As a retired Registered Nurse I have witnessed the harm these policies have exacted on citizens of this country and believe these practices must be stopped!

With urgency,

Christine Dingeman

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