From: Sheqoia Orr

To: <u>ATR-Public-Comments-Tunney-Act-MB</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on the Proposed Final Judgment in United States v. UnitedHealth Group Inc. and

Amedisys, Inc.

**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 4:18:09 PM

## Dear Ms. Maguire,

I am submitting this comment under the Tunney Act regarding the Proposed Final Judgment filed in United States v. UnitedHealth Group Inc., et al.

I am a former employee of Amedisys and a whistleblower who was retaliated against after raising concerns about systemic failures and requesting respectful communication from my manager. I was placed on a retaliatory Performance Improvement Plan, subjected to escalating intimidation, placed on a forced leave during an outside counsel investigation, and ultimately terminated. I was not provided proper off-boarding no severance agreement, no NDA, no return-of-equipment procedure, and a mishandled PTO payout. I hold Right-to-Sue letters from both the CCRD and the EEOC.

Because I refused to be silenced, my safety is now at risk. I have been forced to conduct daily "proof-of-life" check-ins on social media simply to feel secure. This is humiliating, demeaning, and a direct consequence of a billion-dollar healthcare company retaliating against an employee who spoke up.

I am not alone. Attached to this letter are redacted employee testimonials from UnitedHealth Group, Amedisys, and Optum. Names and identifying details have been withheld to protect both patients and employees from further retaliation. The consistency of these statements across all levels of the company is alarming:

## Entry-Level / Frontline Employees

"I am a top performer... since they couldn't get me on performance, they manipulated my system to cause my metrics to drop. I lost hair, gained weight, and developed migraines due to the stress."

"Leadership offered overtime and pushed for constant productivity, yet they clocked out on time themselves and still encouraged us to work through lunches and breaks."

"We were expected to take multiple chats at the same time with no room for error. The workload was unreasonable and caused extreme burnout."

## Mid-Level / Specialists

"We were financially rewarded for keeping patients out of the hospital, even when they clearly needed care. The pressure became overwhelming, and I left because the stress was making me physically sick." "We were pushed to input diagnosis codes that would get claims approved, not necessarily the codes that applied to the patient. Accuracy wasn't the priority. Reimbursement was."

"Employees are afraid to speak up due to fear of retaliation, and those who do often face consequences rather than support."

Senior-Level / Leadership

"I was retaliated against by my manager after the Medicare contract loss. Multiple write-ups were issued against me and HR dismissed my concerns. I ultimately resigned. During this time, I was even called a slur by leadership."

"Executives have confirmed that they were fully aware of repeated complaints, including reports of retaliation and patient safety concerns, yet chose to remain silent."

"Even at the VP level, there was acknowledgment of system failures and productivity pressures. Despite this, nothing was done to protect employees from retaliation when they spoke up."

These testimonials, along with my own experience, show a disturbing pattern of retaliation, intimidation, and disregard for patient safety. This is not about isolated misconduct it is a corporate culture that endangers both employees and patients.

The Tunney Act requires the Court to determine whether the Proposed Final Judgment is in the public interest. I respectfully submit that it is not. Approving this merger without addressing the systemic issues of retaliation and patient safety would only magnify the risks across a larger, more powerful entity.

I urge the Department of Justice and the Court to fully consider this evidence. Hundreds if not thousands of employees and patients are at risk if these practices are allowed to continue unchecked.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Sheqoia Orr