**Medicare Red Tape Relief Project**

Submissions accepted by the Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health

Date: August 25, 2017

Name of Submitting Organization: Physicians Advocacy Institute

Address for Submitting Organization: 1010 Mt. Pleasant Road, Winnetka, IL 60093

Name of Submitting Staff: Kelly Kenney, Executive Vice President/CEO

Submitting Staff Phone: (312) 543-7955

Submitting Staff E-mail: k2strategiesllc@gmail.com

Statutory

Regulatory ✓

**Please describe the submitting organization’s interaction with the Medicare program**: PAI is a not-for-profit advocacy organization focused on securing fair and transparent payment for physicians. PAI’s Board is comprised of CEOs/former CEOs of state medical associations from California, Connecticut, Georgia, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas and a Kentucky physician. A significant portion of the members of these and other states’ medical societies treat Medicare patients and submit claims to Medicare.

**Short Description**: Personal identification information for physician office staff for purposes of physician enrollment

**Summary:** The CMS enrollment form required for a private practicing physician to participate in Medicare asks the physician to provide the social security numbers and home addresses for their office staff. Without this information, the form is deemed incomplete. Private payers are following suit, creating a significant threat to the security of these individuals’ personal information.

These office staff do not have any ownership interest in their employer’s business. They are not at liberty to make financial decisions on behalf of the physician. With rising incidence of identity theft and database security breaches, employers and employees are extremely cautious about disclosing personal information to third parties. This seems overreaching and invasive.

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**Related Statute/Regulation:** CMS Form CMS855i

**Proposed Solution**: Eliminate fields for sensitive personally identifiable information for physician office staff.