

May 12, 2026

Sent via email healthinsuranceratereview.mia@maryland.gov

The Honorable Marie Grant
Commissioner
Maryland Insurance Administration
200 St. Paul Place, Suite 2700
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Mid-Year 2026 Rate Filings (UnitedHealthcare)

Dear Commissioner Grant:

On behalf of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, and the patients we serve, we are categorically opposed to the mid-year 2026 rate increases requested by UnitedHealthcare in the small group market. This request is excessive and would unfairly burden the 26,199 members who would bear the financial burden. While UnitedHealthcare justifies this action through a "projected pricing trend," the reality is that Maryland families are being asked to subsidize corporate greed.

If approved by the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA), these increases would fall squarely on the shoulders of patients while UnitedHealthcare's shareholders and executives benefit from record profits. For 2026, UnitedHealthcare reported first-quarter earnings well above expectations, with adjusted earnings rising from a projected \$6.57 per share to \$7.23 per share. As a result, the company raised its 2026 adjusted earnings outlook to more than \$18.25 per share, up from its previous forecast of more than \$17.75 per share. First-quarter revenue also exceeded expectations, increasing to \$111.72 billion compared to the anticipated \$109.57 billion. At the same time, UnitedHealthcare's medical benefit ratio declined from 84.8 percent to 83.9 percent, indicating that UnitedHealthcare is spending less on actual patient care while collecting more in premiums from consumers. This trend aligns with the complaints MedChi routinely receives from physicians regarding systemic delays and denials of care.¹

Enough is enough. Insurers should not be permitted to continue raising premiums with minimal accountability for access to health care services. The 2024 Appeals and Grievances Report confirms a disturbing rise in adverse determinations over previous years, signaling a persistent failure to provide the health care services patients need and physicians order. Furthermore, it is

¹ [Financial & Earnings Reports - UnitedHealth Group](#)

unconscionable that Maryland remains at the bottom of national rankings for practitioner payment rates while insurers' profits continue to rise.²

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this critical issue. Maryland consumers are facing unprecedented financial pressures, and this is shaping up to be one of the most consequential years for rate setting. We urge the MIA to reject the requested rate increases and to fully consider their cumulative impact on affordability, access to care, and the sustainability of Maryland's physician workforce. Insurers should not be allowed to continue passing costs on to consumers year after year to increase profitability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric S. Wargotz, M.D." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric Wargotz, M.D.
President
MedChi

² Physician payments average only 104 percent of Medicare, compared to the 140 percent national average. Maryland Health Care Commission.