## Medicare Dental, Hearing and Vision Expansion Act Sponsor: Senator Bernie Sanders

**Co-Sponsors**: Senators Warren, Booker, Welch, Markey, Duckworth, Merkley, Blumenthal

**Endorsing Organizations**: Center for Medicare Advocacy, Community Catalyst, Public Citizen, Social Security Works, Center for Health and Democracy, MoveOn.org, Families USA, CareQuest Center for Oral Health, Justice in Aging, People's Action, Medicare Rights Center

## Seniors and People with Disabilities Need Comprehensive Coverage:

- Over 26 million Medicare beneficiaries have no dental coverage at all and have to pay out-of-pocket or forego needed care.
- As a result, nearly one in five seniors over age 75 have lost all of their teeth.
- More than one in three Medicare beneficiaries have difficulty seeing.
- More than two in five Medicare beneficiaries have difficulty hearing.
- Dentures, hearing aids, and eyeglasses can cost seniors on a fixed income thousands of dollars.

## The Medicare Dental, Hearing, and Vision Expansion Act would:

- Expand Medicare to cover dentures beginning on January 1, 2026.
- Expand Medicare to cover comprehensive vision care including eye exams and prescription eyeglasses starting on January 1, 2027.
- Expand Medicare to provide comprehensive hearing care to all Medicare recipients with moderate or profound hearing loss including prescription hearing aids starting on January 1, 2027.
- Provide preventive and procedural dental care to all Medicare recipients to cover cleanings, x-rays and fillings on January 1, 2027.

## **Keeping down costs:**

- The Medicare Dental, Hearing, and Vision Expansion Act would ensure that Medicare doesn't pay more than the Veterans Health Administration for dentures, hearing aids, or eye glasses.
- Unlike most Medicare Advantage plans, The Medicare Dental, Hearing, and Vision Expansion Act would create comprehensive coverage with no arbitrary annual dollar limits on coverage.