



**James L. Martin**  
*Founder/Chairman*

**Saul Anuzis**  
*President*

**Pat Boone**  
*National Spokesman*

February 13, 2023

Brittney Thompson  
Director  
Public Procurement Review Board  
501 North West Street, Suite 700-E  
Jackson, MS 39201

CC: Governor, State Legislators

Dear Brittney,

For more than 30 years we have been fighting for Senior Citizens and the issues that are most important to them and their families.

With inflation and cost of living rising substantially over the last two years, it's as important now as ever that policymakers have the interests of Senior Citizens and those living on fixed incomes in mind. Policymakers must take every necessary step to build trust and help the neediest among us.

A recent decision by your office shakes that trust and once again puts into question whose interests the Government has in mind, that of MS Seniors and their families or those of special interests. Despite poor performance, major ethical concerns, and a year-long investigation ending with a \$55.5 million settlement, Magnolia Health Plan, the subsidiary of healthcare giant Centene Corporation, was awarded one of Mississippi's Medicaid contracts – again. Mississippians are the latest victims of the blind procurement process and poor governance.

It was only last year when the state of Mississippi had to launch an investigation to determine whether or not Centene had inflated medical estimates to the state's division of Medicaid, in an effort to pad their pockets with more money from the state and its taxpayers. The state and Centene reached an agreement to settle for \$55.5 million for alleged wrongdoing. And then this year, due to a flawed bureaucratic process, Centene yet again was awarded the state's Medicaid and CHIP contract.

While it would be easy to write this off as an isolated event, there are known and documented blatant violations of the "blind" nature of the process which allows the bidders to violate the rules and tip off lawmakers. The state, on the backs of its taxpayers, has already paid over \$100K in fines for blind scoring violations. And 83% of those fines stemmed from violating the blind procurement rules.

*The 60 Plus Association is a 31-year-old nonpartisan organization working for death tax repeal, saving Social Security and Medicare, affordable prescription drugs, lowering energy costs and other issues featuring a less government, less taxes approach as well as a strict adherence to the Constitution. 60 Plus calls on support from over 5 million activists. 60 Plus has been called, "an increasingly influential senior citizen's group," and recognized as a center-right alternative to the AARP.*

**60 Plus Association**  
American Association of Senior Citizens  
2121 Eisenhower Avenue ▪ Suite 229 ▪ Alexandria, VA 22314

The blind procurement process lacks transparency, public accountability, and worst of all – allows for bad actors to be rewarded rather than punished for their poor performance.

This would not be surprising in Nevada or California where their government consistently fails its constituents, but this is happening in Mississippi and Missippians deserve better.

The time is now for Mississippi's leaders to re-evaluate the entire blind procurement process and re-bid this on behalf of all taxpayers.

To be so careless with over \$6 billion dollars and the health of 750,000 is not only reckless, it's bad governance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saul Anuzis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Saul" being more prominent and the last name "Anuzis" following in a similar style.

Saul Anuzis  
President