

(Date)

Re: Equitable Carrier Screening Coverage Policy

Dear (Name),

I am reaching out to discuss UnitedHealthcare's (UHC) current approach to carrier screening and to advocate for a national, ethnicity-neutral policy for equitable carrier screening (ECS) that promotes equity for all patients. While UHC currently offers ethnicity-based carrier screening, my personal story highlights the critical need for a more inclusive approach that benefits all individuals, regardless of ethnic background.

Access to carrier screening is deeply important to me due to my personal experience with a heritable disease. [Here, share your experience and how carrier screening has impacted your journey and decisions.]

Genetic carrier screening offers families essential information to make informed decisions based on a comprehensive understanding of one's carrier status. As our society becomes increasingly diverse, ethnicity-based screening has grown less effective; self-reported ethnicity often does not fully reflect an individual's ancestry, potentially leading to gaps in care. Implementing a national, ethnicity-neutral policy for ECS would help identify high-risk couples more equitably and reduce disparities in care.

Today's advances in technology make it possible to efficiently and accurately screen for multiple serious inherited conditions, regardless of a patient's known ethnic background. In 2021, the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) issued a committee opinion recommending equitable carrier screening for all couples during pregnancy and preconception. Adopting a national policy aligned with ACMG's guidelines would ensure that all families have the information needed to make informed, preventive healthcare decisions.

I respectfully urge UHC to consider adopting a national, ethnicity-neutral policy for ECS. This would allow families like mine to access the information we need to make the best decisions for our health and futures.

Please feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss this further.

Thank you for your consideration,

(Full Name)