



Christopher Marte

紐約市市議員馬泰 Council Member, District 1

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65 East Broadway
New York, NY 10002

January 17, 2024

[TEMPLATE VERSION]

Subject: Accept the UCard to help residents gain access to basic necessities

Dear Owner(s),

We are writing this letter in the hopes that you support consumers' use of the UCard. The UCard is a monthly prepaid debit card that can be used by select Medicare Advantage plans, United Healthcare plans, and Dual Special Needs plans such as United Healthcare UCard, Aetna OTC Card, and Blue Cross Blue Shield OTC Card; just to name a few. The UCard provides various benefits for members and is similar to an Electronic Benefits Transfer card. Members can use the UCard to cover their medical costs, toiletry expenses, and utility bills such as gas, water, internet, and electricity. The UCard can be used at your market to purchase healthy foods such as vegetables, meats, fruits, grains, seafood, and dairy items. With inflation and higher living costs, many residents of our neighborhoods are struggling to make ends meet.

Currently, people eligible for the UCard are prevented from subsidizing the costs of their grocery shopping because many of their local supermarkets don't accept it. Furthermore, supermarkets and grocery stores are losing out on more profit they can receive from the utilization of the UCard.

Supporting the use of the UCard is beneficial for the overall community which is why we urge you to accept this form of payment at your locations. If there is any more information you require, please reach out to the office of Council Member Christopher Marte at district1@council.nyc.gov or 212-587-3159.

Sincerely,

Christopher Marte
New York City Council Member