

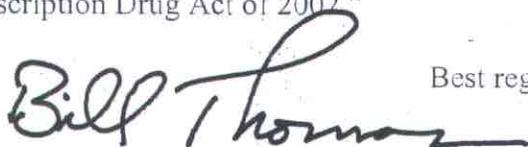
Congress of the United States
 Washington, DC 20515
Medicare Prescription Drug Bill is *Better* than
the Bill you Voted for Last Congress

Dear Republican Colleague:

Next week the House will vote on a Medicare package that is far better than the bill that passed the House two years ago.

Provision	Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002	Rx 2000
Front-End Drug Coverage	80% of costs covered	50% of Costs Covered
Catastrophic Protection	After \$3,800, all costs covered	After \$6,000, all costs covered
Low Income Assistance	150% of poverty phasing out at 175% of poverty	135% of poverty phasing out at 150% of poverty
Access to pharmacies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenient Access to pharmacies required • Optional Point-of-Service to use any or all pharmacies 	Access to pharmacies required for only emergency situations
Quality Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic prescribing to reduce errors • Pharmacy therapy management to increase compliance 	Pharmacy therapy management to increase compliance
Rural Relief package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full equalization of "standardized" amount • Improvements for rural DSH • Critical Access Hospital improvements • 10% home health bonus payment • Higher payments for areas with negative Medicare margins 	No Provision
New Preventive Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free initial physical • Cholesterol screening 	No provision
Improved payments	To doctors, hospitals, home health agencies, nursing homes, dialysis facilities	No provision
Bipartisan Regulatory Relief	Included	No Provision
Strengthen Medicare+Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More equitable reimbursement • PPO and MSA options 	Minor provisions
Competitive Reforms that make Medicare more efficient and save money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor reform • Durable Medical Equipment and off-the-shelf orthotics competitive bidding • Medicare+Choice competitive bidding 	No Provisions
Reduced Beneficiary Cost sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive overcharges for outpatient hospitalization reduced by \$10 billion 	No provision

Let's fix Medicare once and for all. Please vote for the "Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002."



Best regards,

Bill Thomas
 Chairman
 Committee on Ways and Means



Nancy Johnson
 Chairman
 Committee on Ways and Means
 Subcommittee on Health