

Saturday, November 15, 2003

**America's Employers Applaud Historic Bi-Partisan Agreement
*ECOM Calls on House and Senate to promptly approve
agreement and send to the President for his signature this year***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – “America’s Employers commend lawmakers for this historic agreement,” said Ed Kaleta, Chairman of The Employers’ Coalition on Medicare, in praise of the joint House/Senate conferees compromise on prescription drug legislation approved today.

“Representing America’s largest employers and the broad membership of several trade associations, ECOM believes this bill will help employers stay in the game,” Kaleta said, “ECOM has advocated for flexibility in options for employers to continue to provide benefits. This compromise agreement meets that need.”

In addition to adding prescription drugs to the Medicare program, the conference agreement will help strengthen the retiree health care system and begin to shape Medicare’s future for generations to come.

Members of the media interested in speaking with the chairperson of the Employers’ Coalition on Medicare may contact Tim Warner at 202.778.1487 or twarner@apcoworldwide.com to make arrangements.