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VOTE YES ON THE MEDICARE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Dear Representative:

The Food Marketing Institute (FMI), on behalf of our supermarket members who operate close to 15,000 in-store pharmacies and dispense nearly 22 percent of all outpatient prescription drugs in the United States, urges your support and vote in favor of the Conference Agreement to accompany the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003 (H.R. 1).

This bi-partisan agreement establishes a long overdue prescription drug benefit for our nation's 40 million seniors, and the legislation will help to promote competition in the marketplace which means more choices for seniors in the delivery of their medications. Seniors will have greater access to more affordable prescriptions through provisions in the legislation that will put in place a discount card program next year while making important changes to the 1984 Hatch-Waxman law so that less expensive generic drugs can be brought to market more quickly.

Additionally, the Medicare Conference Agreement gives seniors the option to have their long-term, 90-day prescriptions filled at their community pharmacy, and will generate useful information so that beneficiaries can make informed decisions in terms of selecting a drug benefit plan that best meets their individual needs.

For these reasons, and because of the importance of H.R. 1 to our industry and seniors who have their prescriptions filled in a supermarket pharmacy, FMI will consider this a key vote in the 108th Congress. **We urge a Yes Vote on H.R. 1.**

RECEIVED
NOV 20 2003
Bill Thomas, M.C.
Washington, DC

John J. Motley III
Senior Vice President
Government and Public Affairs

FOOD MARKETING INSTITUTE

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