



**CONTACT:** Reese Stone  
202-347-1895  
Alisa Mosley  
202-347-1895

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## **National Medical Association Statement on Pending Medicare Legislation**

**Washington, DC, November 19, 2003-** “As the conscience of American medicine, the National Medical Association is concerned that the Medicare Reform Legislation, as reported out of Conference, does not address the health care needs of the poorest of the poor. And neither does it adequately speak to the participation of African American and other minority physicians in the new regime of Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs) and Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) that will be established as a consequence of its enactment,” said Randall Maxey, M.D., President of the National Medical Association (NMA). He continued, “On balance however, the NMA believes that it is best to move forward with providing the prescription drug benefit critically needed by so many of America’s seniors and underserved populations.”

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