

Committee on Ways and Means

Republicans Have Prioritized Preventive and Wellness Measures

House Republicans have added these preventive and wellness measures to Medicare in H.R.1, the *Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003*:

- free initial physical exams upon eligibility for Medicare;
- cholesterol and blood lipid screening;
- enhanced benefit for colorectal colon screening; and
- enhanced payment for certain mammography services.

In addition to these items, House Republicans have successfully added the following preventive measures to Medicare since 1995:

- colorectal cancer screening;
- prostate cancer screening;
- osteoporosis screening;
- glaucoma screening;
- pelvic exam;
- diabetes testing and education; and
- nutrition therapy.

“For 30 years, Democrats were in control, and no preventive or wellness measures were added. Since Republicans have been in the majority, we have prioritized preventive care for Medicare seniors and have a process in place to add even more wellness services.”

-- Chairman Bill Thomas (R-CA)