

Here's What Organizations That ACTUALLY REPRESENT SENIORS

Have to Say About the Medicare Modernization Act

"AARP believes that millions of older Americans and their families will be helped by this legislation."

AARP

"This legislation protects poor seniors from future soaring prescription drug costs."

We are especially pleased with the inclusion of a prescription drug benefit and the immediate relief that will be extended to our seniors through the prescription drug discount card.



AARP Endorses Medicare Prescription Drug Bill

November 17, 2003

AARP today announced its strong endorsement of the prescription drug bill offered by the conference committee and will work vigorously for its passage.

AARP believes that millions of older Americans and their families will be helped by this legislation. Though far from perfect, the bill represents an historic breakthrough and important milestone in the nation's commitment to strengthen and expand health security for its citizens at a time when it is sorely needed.

The bill will provide prescription drug coverage at little cost to those who need it most: people with low incomes, including those who depend on Social Security for all or most of their income. It will provide substantial relief for those with very high drug costs, and will provide modest relief for millions more. It also provides a substantial increase in protections for retiree benefits and maintains fairness by upholding the health benefit protections of the Age Discrimination and Employment Act.

AARP is pleased by the improvements made to the conference report in recent days. A new structure called "premium support" which required competition between traditional Medicare and private plans was downgraded to a limited test starting in 2010, which has significant protections for those in traditional Medicare. The government will provide coverage in areas where private plans fail to offer coverage. The integrity of Medicare will be protected.

An unprecedented \$88 billion will encourage employers to maintain existing health retiree benefits. The legislation will help speed generic drugs to market and add important new preventive and chronic care management services. Finally, this legislation protects poor seniors from future soaring prescription drug costs.

AARP is launching a national grassroots, advertising and information campaign this week to explain the legislation and urge bipartisan support for its passage.

"The bill will provide prescription drug coverage at little cost to those who need it most: people with low incomes..."

"It will provide substantial relief for those with very high drug costs..."

"It also provides a substantial increase in protections for retiree benefits..."



November 18, 2003

The Honorable William M. Thomas
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0322

Dear Congressman Thomas:

On behalf of our four million supporters nationwide, I would like to congratulate you for the thoughtful and meaningful debate that has led to the current bipartisan Medicare bill. This bill includes many of the improvements for which The Seniors Coalition has advocated since our inception in 1992, and we believe it is an important first step in improvements that will make Medicare sustainable and affordable for current and future generations.

We are especially pleased with the inclusion of a prescription drug benefit and the immediate relief that will be extended to our seniors through the prescription drug discount card. We support the measures put in place to protect those seniors who already benefit from employer-sponsored plans with prescription coverage. Furthermore, we are pleased to see that America's seniors will be less at risk from the dangers of imported drugs now that they can find relief from the exorbitant cost of prescription drugs without resorting to unregulated and dangerous sources for their prescriptions. We are pleased with the provisions that will subsidize low-income seniors and that will ensure that generic drugs are brought to market sooner.

We share our seniors' concerns for the immediate inclusion of oral anti-cancer drugs in the final bill, and we urge Congress to keep its promise to all who paid into the Medicare trust fund by bringing equal coverage available to seniors, regardless of income.

We believe that our supporters will benefit greatly from all of these improvements, and, importantly, so will future generations. On behalf of our four million supporters, we strongly urge you to support this bill with the recommended improvements, and we offer you our support to that end.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
David Hansen
Executive Director

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The Seniors Coalition

The 60 Plus Association

The 60 Plus Association

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(R-TX, 1985-97)
Honorary Co-Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 19, 2003

Contact Ed Fulginiti
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60 Plus Association Endorses Medicare Reform Bill

ARLINGTON, VA—Jim Martin, President of the 60 Plus Association, a network of 4.5 million seniors, strongly endorsed the Conference Committee Report on HR 1, to strengthen Medicare by adding a prescription drug benefit.

"The bill makes available much needed assistance to millions of seniors who lack any prescription drug coverage. Significantly, those who can least afford to pay will get the most help," he said.

Martin said that passage of the prescription drug bill was the highest priority for the 60 Plus Association and would be reflected in the group's Congressional Scorecard for Senators and Representatives in the 108th Congress.

"I worked on Capitol Hill when Medicare passed with bipartisan support in 1965. I was Chief of Staff to Congressman Edward J. Courney (R-FL), who voted for it. We now have another historic opportunity to help our network. I urge Congress to act in a similar bipartisan manner and quickly pass this legislation to provide a long overdue affordable prescription drug benefit for the elderly," Martin concluded.

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All Plus is a 50 year-old bipartisan group with a long government, bipartisan reputation in seniors' issues. All Plus has become one of the fastest growing senior groups in the country, doubling their eligible list members in the past year. All Plus can save you an average of \$1 million (plus nearly \$1 million (plus) additional in prior and total millions of dollars and profits). All Plus publishes a newsletter, SENIORS TODAY, and a FORUM, AARP, Seniors & CAREERS. OF SENIORS' RIGHTS annual on November 19 in both parties who run "open houses." All Plus has been called "the increasingly influential lobbying group for the elderly..."

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