



Facts Every Retiree Should Know: ***Medicare Drug Bargaining***

For the past year, seniors across the nation have felt the devastating effects of Medicare Part D; this misguided plan forces seniors to make heartbreaking decisions between paying for medicine and paying for food. Now, Congress has a chance to ease this burden by giving Medicare the right to bargain for lower drug prices. In January, the House of Representatives passed a bill that required Medicare to bargain for lower prescription drug prices. The Senate watered-down its version of the bill to only permit Medicare to bargain. However, 43 Senators blocked a fair up-or-down vote on this issue. **We need to tell these Senators to stop putting drug companies' profits ahead of seniors' health.**

How does Medicare Bargaining affect retirees?

- Part D *prohibits* Medicare from bargaining for lower drug prices. Since Part D took effect, prices of the 15 most-used prescription drugs have gone up by an average of 9.2% -- that's *four times the rate of inflation*, and three times the Cost of Living increase provided by Social Security.
- Without bargaining, *Medicare is overpaying drug companies by 12%* -- that money comes directly out of your pockets and goes into CEOs'.
- Prices under Medicare Part D are at least *50% higher* than prices for veterans, because the Veterans Administration is allowed to bargain, while Medicare is not.
- These high prices push seniors into the infamous "Part D doughnut hole," and they push Medicare towards insolvency.
- Giving Medicare the right to bargain wouldn't just help seniors; it would help *all* taxpayers, because *Medicare Bargaining would save \$20 billion in tax dollars every year.*

Medicare Bargaining would cut costs for seniors and taxpayers *right now.*
It's time to tell the Senate to make this crucial change
for the sake of all retirees and all Americans.

