

**Sent:** Fri, 22 Aug 2003 15:12:04 -0400  
**From:** "Besanceney, Brian R." </O=EOP/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE  
GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BRIAN R. BESANCENEY>

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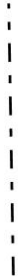
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**Subject:** TALKING POINTS: Savings for Seniors Under Medicare (8-22)  
[08-22 Talking Points\\_Medicare\\_SavingsforSeniors.pdf](#)

## TALKING POINTS: SAVINGS FOR SENIORS UNDER MEDICARE

*“The House and Senate have got to work out their differences and they are going to. I believe there’s a spirit of cooperation and a can-do attitude amongst the conferees. But in either version of their bills, seniors who currently lack drug coverage will see real savings. And that’s a positive reform for many of our fellow citizens.”*

*–President George W. Bush, July 30, 2003*

**Under both the House and Senate bills, the new prescription drug benefit will enable seniors without coverage to cut their drug bills by about half. Low income seniors would see even greater savings.**

10 million seniors today have no coverage for prescription drugs. These seniors are bearing the full impact of rising drug costs, and many are being forced to go without their medicines or cut their pills in half to make them last longer. With this new benefit, they will be able to cut their drug costs by about half. Millions more seniors now buy supplemental policies that offer minimal drug coverage and cost hundreds of dollars per month. This legislation will fill in the major gaps in coverage under the current system.

- For seniors today who receive ulcer surgery, Medicare will pay for extended hospital stays at a cost of up to \$28,000 per patient. Yet Medicare will not pay for drugs that eliminate the cause of most ulcers, drugs that cost about \$500 per year.
- For a senior today who requires treatment for a stroke, Medicare will cover bills from the hospital and rehabilitation center, doctors, home health aides and out-patient care totaling up to \$100,000. Yet Medicare does not cover the blood-thinning drugs that prevent strokes in the first place – drugs that cost less than \$1,000 year.

**Under both the House and Senate bills, seniors will pay a \$35 monthly premium (about \$1 a day) for prescription drug coverage delivered through a Medicare-approved private health care plan. Their savings will be as follows:**



*If you lack prescription drug coverage  
and have monthly spending on prescriptions of...  
between...*

*You'll have an annual savings  
on prescriptions*

	\$100	
	\$580-\$808	
	\$200	
\$200		
\$1303-\$1816		
	\$300	
\$300		
\$2023-\$2120		
	\$400	
\$400		
\$2360-\$2743		
	\$500	
\$500		
\$2600-\$3313		
	\$600	
	\$700	\$3553-\$3700
\$700		
\$4398-\$4900		
	\$800	
\$800		
\$5503-\$6100		

**All seniors will achieve savings through a Medicare drug discount card.** Since the new prescription drug benefit will not go into effect until 2006, the President wants Congress to provide seniors with a drug discount card in 2004 that will enable seniors to achieve savings of 10 to 25 percent on the cost of their medicines. Low income seniors will also receive \$600 to \$800 in each of the next two years to further assist with covering the cost of their medicines.

Now is the time to seize this historic opportunity to modernize Medicare – for our seniors today, who are unnecessarily spending their retirement savings, and for generations of retirees to come.

For more information on the President's initiatives, please visit [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)  
White House Office of Communications

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