

July 30, 2004

Dear Friend,

Our seniors need a real prescription drug benefit from Medicare that actually helps them deal with skyrocketing drug prices. The bill the Majority passed through Congress last year does not cut the prices of prescription drugs for all seniors. For this and other deficiencies, I could not support the drug company-backed bill.

The price of drugs seems to be growing endlessly. In fact, last month, AARP reported that prescription drug prices have increased nearly three times the rate of inflation during the first quarter of 2004. I believe one sensible solution is to allow the federal government to use the massive purchasing power it possesses to drive down the cost of prescription drugs. Sadly, though, last year's Medicare drug bill actually prohibits the government from negotiating the lowest prices possible – a negotiating power that the Department of Veterans Affairs already has.

For this reason, I have cosponsored the Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act of 2004 (H.R. 3767), which requires the federal government to use its purchasing power to negotiate meaningful discounts on prescription medicine for seniors and people with disabilities. Unfortunately, the House leadership has not allowed a hearing or vote on this bill. I've joined in an effort to allow a vote on this important legislation. For more information, please visit my website at [here](#).

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. I hope you have found the information useful. Please watch your inbox for future updates.

Very truly yours,

Tom Udall