

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 17, 2002

**REPUBLICAN MEDICARE DRUG BILL:  
WHAT IS THE REAL AGENDA? PRIVATIZATION – NOT CHOICE**

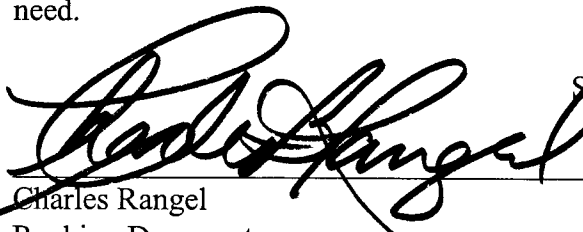
Dear Colleague:


Under the Republican prescription drug bill, seniors would have no drug plan in fee-for-service Medicare. They would be forced to purchase drugs through private drug-only policies or join a private Medicare+Choice plan. This is unlike any other part of Medicare where you have a choice of staying in the “traditional fee-for-service” program or joining a Medicare+Choice plan. Republicans claim to be providing choices, but they aren’t.

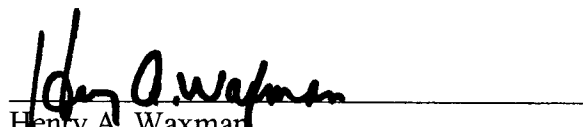
Republicans also have a “competition demonstration” for the rest of Medicare that would force seniors who want to stay in the “traditional fee-for-service” program to pay more to maintain that coverage. For many seniors this won’t be a choice – they will be forced into an HMO because they won’t be able to afford to stay in the traditional Medicare plan.

Since Medicare began, Republicans have been looking to end government’s involvement in the program. This bill heads right down the path of privatization.

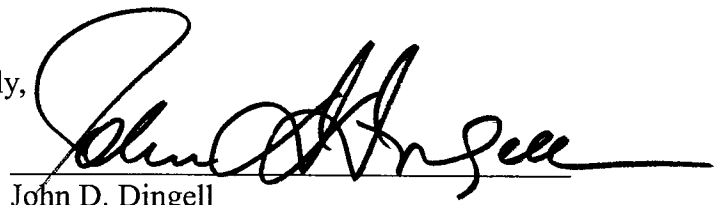
Members of Congress have a choice too -- vote “NO” on the Republican bill and “YES” on the Democrats “tried and true” drug benefit that gives Seniors a real choice to get the drugs that they need.


  
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Charles Rangel  
Ranking Democrat  
Committee on Ways and Means

  
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Pete Stark  
Ranking Democrat  
Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Ways and Means

  
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Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Democrat  
Committee on Government Reform

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John D. Dingell  
Ranking Democrat  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

  
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Sherrod Brown  
Ranking Democrat  
Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Energy and Commerce