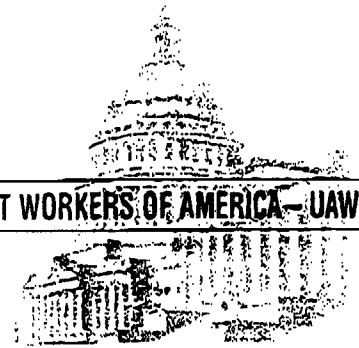


INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA—UAW



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March 4, 2003

The Hon. John D. Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn House Off. Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Charles B. Rangel
U.S. House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Dingell and Rangel:

The UAW strongly supports the "Medicare Rx Drug Benefit and Discount Act of 2003" which you are introducing today. Unlike President Bush's proposals, your bill will provide seniors and the disabled with a meaningful and comprehensive drug benefit.

The UAW believes it is critically important that Medicare be updated to include a prescription drug benefit. In our judgment, a meaningful drug benefit must satisfy the following principles:

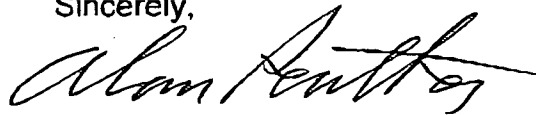
- * Coverage must be comprehensive, continuous and certain;
- * The drug benefit must be provided through the Medicare program, not private insurance companies;
- * The Medicare drug benefit must be paired with aggressive cost-containment measures to restrain escalating drug prices;
- * The benefit must be affordable for beneficiaries, with a low premium and a reasonable cap on beneficiary out-of-pocket costs;
- * Retirees that currently have adequate coverage from their former employer should not be penalized or placed at risk of losing their benefits.

Your bill meets these principles.

- * It offers a prescription drug program through Medicare, allowing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to use the collective bargaining clout of 40 million beneficiaries to negotiate fair prices and to pass the savings on to those beneficiaries.
- * It provides guaranteed benefits, affordable premiums and continuous coverage with a limit on out-of-pocket costs of \$2,000 a year.
- * It will help employers that currently provide retiree drug benefits to continue this coverage, preserving the drug benefits of millions of senior citizens.

Accordingly, the UAW strongly supports the Medicare Rx legislation which you are introducing today. We commend you for your leadership on this issue, and encourage your colleagues to support this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan Reuther".

Alan Reuther
Legislative Director

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