

JEFF FLAKE
6TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

424 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2635

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1640 SOUTH STAPLEY DRIVE
SUITE 215
MESA, AZ 85204
(480) 833-0092

WESTERN CAUCUS
VICE CHAIRMAN



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
AFRICA

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CRIME, TERRORISM, AND HOMELAND SECURITY
IMMIGRATION, BORDER SECURITY,
AND CLAIMS

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE:
FORESTS AND FOREST HEALTH

Restore Fiscal Responsibility in Medicare

The projected cost of the prescription drug benefit continues to skyrocket, while the long-term solvency of Medicare is increasingly in question.

Congress must act to delay implementation of the drug benefit until the costs are understood and controlled.

Even before implementation of the prescription drug benefit, it has become simply unaffordable. The program will cost up to \$724 billion over the next 10 years, nearly twice as much as the \$395 billion price tag originally publicized to pass the program.

The Washington Post, "Medicare Drug Benefit May Cost \$1.2 Trillion." Feb. 9, 2005.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warned that "severe" economic consequences will result from current unrestrained increases in Medicare spending.

The Washington Post, "Greenspan Warns of Economic Stagnation." March 3, 2005.

Become an Original Co-Sponsor of the Prescription Drug Benefit Oversight Act

Dear Colleague:

The Medicare Prescription Drug Program does not go into effect until January 1, 2006. Congress should act now to delay implementation of the benefit for one year in order to accurately assess the cost of the law, examine its effects on Medicare's sustainability, and to consider effective cost-control mechanisms.

Delaying the benefit for one year will save more than \$40 billion in a time of tough budgetary choices, and allow Congress to oversee the development of the complex program.

By extending the prescription drug card benefit, Congress can ensure that low-income seniors will continue to receive assistance, without the potentially devastating long-term impacts on the Treasury and future generations of the fully implemented program.

I urge you to support this common-sense, reasonable solution by becoming an original co-sponsor of the Prescription Drug Benefit Oversight Act. Please contact Andy Chasin, ext. 6-9747, or Andy.Chasin@mail.house.gov, for a copy of the bill or to become a co-sponsor.

Sincerely,

JEFF FLAKE
Member of Congress