

Committee on Ways and Means

Guaranteeing Drug Benefits Under Medicare *Why the Bipartisan Agreement Doesn't 'Privatize' Medicare*

Critics falsely claim H.R. 1 would 'privatize' Medicare. 'Privatization' is a loaded term used by partisan liberals to scare seniors into wrongly thinking the government will not oversee or guarantee them access to vital entitlement programs, such as Medicare and Social Security.

FACTS:

1. Under the Democrats' flawed logic, current Medicare is already privatized. Today, seniors in Medicare receive health care from doctors in private practices and at private hospitals. They can even participate in private, integrated managed care plans. All of these private-sector options existed under Medicare – before H.R. 1.
2. The *Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003* will not 'privatize' Medicare. This legislation makes critical improvements and modernizations to Medicare to provide seniors better health care *within* and *under* the existing Medicare program.
3. By giving seniors choice, they will be able to pick from health care options that best fit their medical needs. This legislation guarantees seniors will obtain these guaranteed benefits under Medicare, regardless of how they choose to receive their health care.