



Congressman Ben Cardin

Maryland's Third District



Congressman Ben Cardin - Maryland's Third District

[Website](#) | [Biography](#) | [Constituent Services](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Key Cardin Issues](#) | [News](#)

Dear Friends,

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently released a report showing that private health plans violated the Medicare law by limiting patients' access to the health care providers of their choice. The report also found that these plans increased out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries and cost the government far more than if patients had remained in traditional Medicare.

By law, seniors in preferred provider organizations (PPOs) must be given access to any provider, even those who may be outside the plan's network. The GAO report is particularly disturbing because it found that the Administration had violated the law by allowing 29 of 33 preferred provider organizations (PPOs) to limit provider choice for beneficiaries. The report also found that the government spent \$700 a year more on each senior in a PPO than it did for seniors in traditional Medicare.

When Congress comes back for its lame-duck session in mid-November, I will introduce legislation requiring the Medicare program administrator to immediately notify all 98,000 PPO enrollees that they are entitled to services by both in-and-out-of-network providers, and to initiate refunds to all seniors who have paid out-of-pocket for services that should have been covered by their PPO.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress



Congressman Cardin Says More Needs to Be Done to Protect Our Nation's Rail System

Following a briefing on rail security by the Maryland Office of Homeland Security, Congressman Cardin joined Maryland Sens. Paul Sarbanes and Barbara Mikulski in calling for increased funding to improve security for our nation's rail system. The Congressman, a member of the Homeland Security Committee, also said "the Transportation Security Administration has done a lot to improve aviation security, but it needs to focus more attention and resources on rail security."

Previous Survey Question Results

The 2001 and 2003 tax cuts have not been fully implemented. Would you support halting further tax cuts to help reduce the deficit?

Answer	Percent
Yes	72.90%
No	27.10%
Totals	100%

New Survey Question

Congressman Cardin Wants To Hear From You

Would you support allowing uninsured Americans to buy into the Medicare program at cost?

- Yes
 No

Contact Information

website: <http://www.cardin.house.gov/>

District Office
600 Wyndhurst Ave.
Suite 230
Baltimore, MD 21210
410-433-8886
fax: 410-433-2110

Washington D.C. Office
2207 Rayburn House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-4016
fax: 202-225-9219

Annapolis Outreach Office
Mondays, 9 a.m.-noon
or by appointment
44 Calvert St., Suite 349
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-974-9703