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M.C.
Presorted Standard

Important Information from Congressman Lynch for all Medicare-Eligible Residents of the Ninth Congressional District



MEDICARE PART D

Dear Friend,

If you or someone in your family is Medicare-eligible, you have some important decisions to make in the coming weeks.

You've probably heard about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage. It's called Medicare Part D, and it started on January 1, 2006.

The program has several problems, and as someone who opposed the bill that created this program, I am working in the Congress to improve it. Despite its problems, Medicare Part D can reduce the cost of prescription drugs for many seniors and disabled citizens.

In the meantime, I have a responsibility to help the Medicare-eligible folks in my district to learn more about the benefit and sign up for the plan that works best for them. That's why I held sixteen forums around our District in the last few months, and that's why I'm writing to you today.

Individuals who fail to sign up for a prescription drug plan by the May 15th deadline could face financial penalties, and may not have another opportunity to sign up until November.

So I urge you to review the information on this card, and then contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to determine which plan fits your needs.

If you have any problems at all, please don't hesitate to call Nicholas Zaferakis in my Boston Office at 617-428-2000.

Sincerely,



STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Congressman
9th District, Massachusetts

What you need to know about **MEDICARE PART D**

1. Sign up for a plan by May 15, 2006.

This is absolutely critical. If you don't sign up by May 15th, your monthly premium will be increased permanently by 1% for every month you wait past the deadline.

2. Remember the three C's: Cost, Coverage & Convenience.

There are dozens of different drug plans available to Massachusetts residents. These plans vary widely on premiums, deductibles, co-payments, covered drugs, and access to local pharmacies.

3. The best plan for someone else may not be the best plan for you.

Because of the large variety of plans, it might be the case that the plan that offers the best coverage for your next door neighbor, or even your spouse, doesn't cover one of the prescriptions you use.

4. The prescription drug coverage you have now might be better than Medicare Part D.

If you have prescription drug coverage from your employer, former employer or some other source, you'll need to determine if your plan will be available in the future, and whether the coverage and cost are better than Medicare Part D.

5. There is extra help for people who need it.

Massachusetts residents with lower incomes can get extra help. If you believe that you qualify for additional assistance, contact Social Security to apply at 800-772-1213.

The most important thing is not to get overwhelmed. There are several offices and agencies that are ready to help you:

Congressman Lynch's Boston Office 617-428-2000
www.house.gov/lynch

Medicare (24 Hours/Day, 7 Days/Week) 800-633-4227
www.medicare.gov TTY: 877-486-2048

Social Security 800-772-1213
www.socialsecurity.gov TTY: 800-325-0778

SHINE 800-243-4636
www.medicareoutreach.org Press '2'

Prescription Advantage 800-243-4636
www.800ageinfo.com Press '1'

Mass Health 800-841-2900
www.mass.gov/masshealth TTY: 800-497-4648

