

# After 40 Years

*Medicare  
finally has a  
prescription  
drug benefit.*

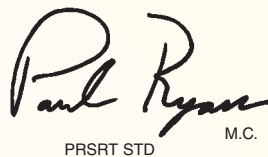


**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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## **Congressman Paul Ryan helps make prescription drug coverage a reality.**

  
M.C.  
PRSRT STD

Congress has taken action to lower the high cost of prescription drugs for America's seniors. Now, you have a chance to learn how this new law impacts you and have your questions answered. Your feedback is important, and Congressman Ryan is looking forward to discussing the many benefits the new Medicare law has for Wisconsin's seniors at his upcoming Medicare Town Hall Meetings.

**Mark your calendar and  
attend one of Paul Ryan's  
Medicare town hall  
meetings on December 18.**



# How the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act will affect you:



The goal of the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003 is to strengthen and improve the Medicare program, providing all Medicare recipients with a voluntary prescription drug benefit. In addition, the bill gives low-income seniors extra help and resources to pay for the drugs they need to stay healthy.

## The Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act:

- ✓ In spring 2004, all seniors can obtain a Medicare-endorsed prescription drug discount card – resulting in savings of up to 15-25%. In addition, through the card, low-income seniors can receive up to \$600 in prescription drug assistance per year for 2004 and 2005.
- ✓ Beginning in 2006, Medicare will offer a voluntary prescription drug coverage plan for all Medicare recipients – providing long overdue benefits.
- ✓ Medicare prescription drug plans will be affordable, with premiums around \$35 a month and catastrophic protection – Medicare will pay 95 percent of a beneficiary's drug bill after \$3600 in annual out-of-pocket costs. Medicare will pay 75% of the first \$2,250 in drug expenses.
- ✓ Seniors will have a choice between at least two plans under the program and will be able to choose service from any pharmacy.
- ✓ Reimbursement rates for medical and hospital care have increased – making the new plan fairer for Wisconsin.
- ✓ Seniors will no longer have to purchase Medigap plans if they choose one of the new comprehensive plans offered by Medicare beginning in 2006.
- ✓ Seniors will be able to keep their current coverage, including SeniorCare, as employers are encouraged to maintain existing benefits for retirees.



*“Medicare has been one of the most important and successful federal government programs by helping seniors live longer and healthier lives. In keeping with that tradition, Congress recently added a prescription drug benefit to the program. I want you to know more about new benefits available to you. Please join me at one of my Town Hall Meetings listed below.”*

Serving Wisconsin's 1st District

# Learn more about new Medicare benefits available to you!

## — Thursday, December 18th —

**9:00am – 10:30am**

**Mercy Health Mall  
Community Education Room  
1010 N. Washington St.  
Janesville, WI**

**12:30pm - 2:00pm**

**Oak Creek Community Center  
Theater Room  
8580 S. Howell Ave.  
Oak Creek, WI**

**3:00pm - 4:30pm**

**With HHS Secretary  
Tommy Thompson (Invited)  
UW-Parkside  
Parkside Cinema  
Student Center Building  
800 Wood Rd.  
Kenosha, WI**

**Call Congressman Ryan's Toll-Free Constituent Hotline for more details 1-888-909-RYAN (7926)**