



Congressman

SHERROD BROWN

WORKING FOR YOU

Spring 2006

Medicare PART D

Enrollment Extension Sought

The new Medicare Part D prescription drug program has gotten off to a rocky start. Not just prospective enrollees, but state and local agencies, federal officials, and even the drug plans have had problems navigating the complex program. Elderly and disabled Medicare enrollees have waited on hold for up to two hours for a Medicare hotline representative to assist them.

Given the program's shaky start, seniors cannot be blamed and should not be penalized if they have not yet enrolled. I am a cosponsor of the Medicare Informed Choice Act, a bill that extends the penalty-free enrollment deadline so that seniors can make informed decisions about whether the Part D program is right for them.

I will continue to push the Administration and Congress to waive the late penalty for Medicare beneficiaries who enroll after May 15th.

I am cosponsoring two other bills that make positive changes to the Medicare Part D program. The Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act (HR 752) enables Medicare beneficiaries to go directly to Medicare for their prescription drug coverage, just as they do for hospital and medical coverage. It was always a mistake to force seniors to go outside of Medicare to purchase private drug plans, which are unpredictable when it comes to premiums, copays, and covered drugs. Insurance should reduce anxiety, not produce it. The Medicare Equitable Drugs for Seniors Act (HR 376) gives Medicare the authority to negotiate bulk discounts on prescription drugs. It is outrageous that Washington has caved into drug industry demands for a ban on Medicare drug price negotiations. The bill removes this ban, saving money for seniors and taxpayers alike.



*Time is
Running
Out!*

Unless the President acts, May 15th is the deadline for enrolling, penalty-free, in the new Medicare Part D program. If current Medicare beneficiaries decide to join a prescription drug plan after that date, they will pay a "late enrollment" penalty for as long as they need the drug coverage.

See recent updates on my Website at:

www.house.gov/sherrodbrown

JOBS FOR VETERANS

This March, I was honored to speak to veterans at the Employment Connection's Veterans Transition Fair at the Brecksville VA Medical Center.

For many years, unemployment among veterans has been much too high. In 2002, 26 percent of male veterans were unemployed.



Congressman Brown talks with returning veterans about job training opportunities at the Brecksville VA.

Veterans have missed out on job opportunities, and employers have overlooked many well-trained individuals.

I supported legislation, the Jobs for Veterans Act, which increased and improved the job placement opportunities available to veterans, including the job training available at the Brecksville VA Medical Center.

I am committed to ensuring a seamless transition from military service to civilian life and to providing employment opportunities for Ohio veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

For more information on employment and training programs for veterans, visit <http://www.dol.gov/vets/>

Remember to Register to Vote

October 10th is the deadline to register to vote for the November general election.

Useful Information:

Line 6: ID Number—In Ohio, you must supply your driver's license number or the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. If neither is supplied, you must present a valid ID at your polling site.

Line 7: Choice of Party—Optional

Line 8: Race or Ethnic Group—Leave Blank

Mail the Completed form to:
Secretary of State of Ohio
P.O. Box 2828
Columbus, OH 43216-2828



TRADING AWAY OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

The Bush administration's decision to allow a Dubai company to manage US ports prompted bipartisan opposition. But that may be just the tip of the iceberg.

International trade agreements don't just open U.S. markets, they open our infrastructure and supply lines. Yet current law requires no systematic security review of trade agreements

I introduced the Trade-Related American National Security Enhancement and Accountability Act to:

- ▲ **Require security reviews** — to identify potential vulnerabilities
- ▲ **Require security waivers** — to suspend trade agreements when compliance would cause a vulnerability
- ▲ **Create an independent watchdog** — to keep Congress informed
- ▲ **Allow Congress to force action** — if the administration fails to act

Voter Registration Application

Before completing this form, review the General, Application, and State specific instructions.

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Will you be 18 years old on or before election day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you checked "No" in response to either of these questions, do not complete form. (Please see state-specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to register prior to age 18.)		This space for office use only.					
1	(Circle one) Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	(Circle one) Jr Sr II III IV		
2	Home Address		Apt. or Lot #	City/Town	State	Zip Code	
3	Address Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above			City/Town	State	Zip Code	
4	Date of Birth ____/____/____ Month Day Year		5	Telephone Number (optional)		6	ID Number - (See Item 6 in the instructions for your state)
7	Choice of Party <small>(see item 7 in the instructions for your State)</small>		8	Race or Ethnic Group <small>(see item 8 in the instructions for your State)</small>			
9	I have reviewed my state's instructions and I swear/affirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ I am a United States citizen ■ I meet the eligibility requirements of my state and subscribe to any oath required. ■ The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, I may be fined, imprisoned, or (if not a U.S. citizen) deported from or refused entry to the United States. 				Please sign full name (or put mark) ▲ _____ Date: _____ Month Day Year		

If you are registering to vote for the first time: please refer to the application instructions for information on submitting copies of valid identification documents with this form.

Please fill out the sections below if they apply to you.

If this application is for a **change of name**, what was your name before you changed it?

A	Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	(Circle one) Jr Sr II III IV
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If you were **registered before but this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2**, what was your address where you were registered before?

B	Street (or route and box number)	Apt. or Lot #	City/Town/County	State	Zip Code
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If you live in a rural area but do not have a street number, or if you have no address, please show on the map where you live.

C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write in the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live. ■ Draw an X to show where you live. ■ Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores, or other landmarks near where you live, and write the name of the landmark. 	NORTH ▲			
	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Example</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">Route #2</td> <td style="width: 75%; text-align: center;"> </td> </tr> </table>	Example	Route #2		
Example	Route #2				

If the applicant is unable to sign, who helped the applicant fill out this application? Give name, address and phone number (phone number optional).

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Mail this application to the address provided for your State.

Ohio Workers Deserve a Raise



The federal minimum wage has remained stagnant since 1997, but inflation – including skyrocketing gas prices – has cut its buying power to about \$4.15. Meanwhile, CEO pay continues to climb. ExxonMobil's CEO makes more in an hour (about \$18,100) than a minimum-wage worker makes all year (\$10,500). American workers are earning less, and paying more to cover CEO raises.

I am cosponsoring the Fair Minimum Wage Act (HR 2429) to gradually raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 and finally give Ohio working families a raise.

Ohioans are working to raise the minimum wage through a 2006 ballot initiative.

For updates and information about my work in Congress or to share your views on issues important to you, please visit www.house.gov/sherrodbrown/optin.htm

Congressman
SHERROD BROWN
Here to Serve You

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(440) 245-5355 fax

Summit County
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(330) 865-8450
(330) 865-8470 fax

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Call toll-free (Ohio only): 1-800-234-6413

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