



**Lois Capps Reports on
Critical Issues in Congress**



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Medicare Part D

May 15th- the deadline for seniors Medicare just a few May 15th, seniors

to enroll in Part D-is days away. After premiums for

receiving Medicare prescription drug benefits will rise by 1 percent every month for which they are eligible but not enrolled in a plan. Sunday is Mother's Day, which should be reserved for celebration. Unfortunately, many mothers and their children will be spending the day squinting at confusing websites and on hold with call centers, trying to make sense of the myriad of plans offered.

I have been fighting for an extension of the deadline for Part D enrollment. In a recent hearing of the Energy and Commerce Committee, on which I serve, I strongly urged Mark McClellan, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to extend the enrollment deadline for drug plans as long as possible. I am a cosponsor of the Medicare Informed Choice Act, which would allow seniors to enroll in a drug plan or change their plan throughout all of 2006 without penalty. Click [here](#) to view my speech on the floor of the House on May 9 calling for an extension of the deadline.

Santa Rosa Island

Last year, I successfully fought off two attempts by House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) to kick the public off Santa Rosa Island, in Channel Islands National Park, in order to indefinitely continue the trophy hunting of nonnative deer and elk. Unfortunately, Chairman Hunter has inserted language yet again to exclude the public from Santa Rosa into the National Defense Authorization Act.

Now he's proposing that Santa Rosa should be used as a hunting ground for disabled veterans. Frankly, it is insulting that our heroic disabled veterans are now being used as pawns in this effort to limit public access to the island. If the Chairman is sincerely concerned about helping our veterans, he should reject his party's efforts to cut veterans funding by \$8.6 billion over the next five years as the Republican budget proposes to do.

Today, I spoke on the floor of the House in favor of an amendment that strips this provision from the legislation. Click [here](#) to view my speech.

Thank you for your kind attention to these critical issues and please feel free to pass

along this information to your family and friends. To sign up for future email updates on my work in Congress [click here](#).

**Congresswoman Lois Capps is here to help you.
Please feel free to contact any of our district offices anytime.**

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