



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District
For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrew Whalen, Communications Director
office: (202) 225-6401 / cell: (202) 731-5116

Congressman Heath Shuler Votes to Help Seniors get Lower Prescription Drug Prices

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler voted today to help seniors pay less for the prescription drugs they need. H.R. 4, which passed the House of Representatives with bi-partisan support, changes the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate lower drug prices.

“This is a common sense bill that allows us to use the bargaining power of the 22 million seniors enrolled in Plan D to lower drug prices,” said Rep. Shuler. “We have a moral obligation to care for our senior citizens, and we are doing that by making prescription drugs more affordable.”

This bill provides the HHS Secretary discretion in how to implement their negotiating authority. Negotiation was used successfully in 2001 to obtain lower prices for Cipro, the prescription drug used in response to the anthrax attacks. The bill also requires the Secretary to submit a report on the negotiations by June 1, 2007, and every six months thereafter.

“Our states and the Veteran’s Administration have shown that we can successfully negotiate lower drug prices. It’s time to put the power of negotiation to work for all American seniors,” Shuler concluded.

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