



January 5, 2007

Hon. Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: HR 4: Negotiating Part D Drug Prices

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

I am the executive director of the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc. The Center is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that works on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries to ensure fair access to Medicare and health care. We provide assistance and education for beneficiaries and respond to over 7,000 calls and emails each year seeking our help.

I write in support of HR 4, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate lower covered Part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries. In requiring the Secretary to negotiate prices for Part D drugs, HR 4 is an extremely important step towards making Part D more cost effective for beneficiaries and taxpayers. The current statutory prohibition on such negotiations is unsupportable. HR 4 will help keep drug prices from skyrocketing at the expense of current beneficiaries, taxpayers, and the future of Medicare.

The Center for Medicare Advocacy heartily endorses the passage of this bill. We surely hope that it will be passed quickly, enacted into law, and implemented vigorously. To that end we also endorse the provisions of the bill that require regular reporting by the Secretary and oversight by Congress.

Thank you for providing this opportunity. Please let me know if I can provide anything further.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Stein

Judith A. Stein, Esq.
Executive Director