



Proposed Legislation to Fix the Medicare Act of 2003

Following is a list of proposed legislation introduced in the House and Senate describing fixes to the existing Medicare law since the passage of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, Pub.L.108-173 Dec 8, 2003 (MMA). It also includes bills introducing new measures to promote beneficiary-friendly changes to the law, e.g. drug re-importation, negotiated prices, and elimination of give-backs to private plans. The list will be updated on a weekly basis, with the most recent proposals at the top. For further information, contact the Center for Medicare Advocacy's Washington, DC office at (202) 216-0028.

H.R. 5331 (October 8, 2004)	Rep. McCarthy (D-NY)	To amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the reduction in Medicare payment through competitive bidding for certain items of durable medical equipment
H.R. 5218 (October 5, 2004)	Rep. Gephardt (D-MO)	To increase health insurance coverage in America by requiring employers to offer health insurance coverage with greater government assistance and by expanding current safety net programs, and for other purposes.
S.2876 (September 30, 2004)	Sen. Hutchison (R-TX) with 2 cosponsors	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate reductions in payments to hospitals for the indirect costs of medical education.
H.R. 5189 (September 30, 2004)	Rep. Israel (D-NY) with 5 cosponsors	To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend Medicare cost-sharing for the Medicare part B premium for qualifying individuals

		through September 2005.
H.R. 5175 (September 29, 2004)	Rep. Carson (D-OK)	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to stabilize the amount of the Medicare part B premium.
H.R. 5156 (September 28, 2004)	Rep. Green (D-TX)	To amend title II of the Social Security Act to phase out the 24-month waiting period for disabled individuals to become eligible for Medicare benefits, to eliminate the waiting period for individuals with life-threatening conditions, and for other purposes.
H.R. 5160 (September 28, 2004)	Rep. Saxton (R-NJ) with 2 cosponsors	To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend Medicare cost-sharing for the Medicare part B premium for qualifying individuals through September 2005.
H.R. 5144 (September 23, 2004)	Rep. Norwood (R-GA) with 22 cosponsors	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to cancer care under the Medicare Program.
H.R. 5116 (September 21, 2004)	Rep. Pallone (D-NJ)	To amend title II of the Social Security Act to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare coverage of individuals disabled with distant stage cancer.
S. 2810 (September 15, 2004)	Sen. Specter (R-PA)	An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5006 (September 7, 2004)	Rep. Regula (R-OH)	Making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.
S.2766 (July 22, 2004)	Specter (R-PA)	A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prices for Medicare prescription drugs and to eliminate the gap in coverage of Medicare prescription drug benefits, to reduce medical errors and increase the use of medical technology, to increase services in primary and preventive care by non-physician providers, and for other purposes.
S.2730 (July 22, 2004)	Durbin (D-IL)	A bill to amend title V, XVIII, and XIX of the Social Security Act to promote cessation of tobacco use under the Medicare program, the Medicaid program, and the maternal and child health services block grant program.
S.2725 (July 22, 2004)	Boxer (D-CA) with 3 cosponsors	A bill to amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to eliminate the coverage gap, to eliminate HMO subsidies, to repeal health savings accounts, and for other purposes.

H.R.4967 (July 22, 2004)	Larson (D-CT)	To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require automatic fire sprinkler systems in all nursing facilities participating in the Medicare or Medicaid Programs.
H.R.4927 (July 22, 2004) ESRD Modernization Act of 2004	Camp (R-MI) with 4 cosponsors	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the benefits under the Medicare Program for beneficiaries with kidney disease, and for other purposes.
H.R.4919 (July 22, 2004) Medicare Drug Card Guaranteed Savings Act	Allen (D-ME) with 1 cosponsor	To amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the offering of a Federal national prescription drug discount card program.
H.R.4903 (July 22, 2004)	Brown (D-OH) with 4 cosponsors	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for improved accountability in the Medicare Advantage and prescription drug programs.
H.R.4902 (July 22, 2004) Medicare Rural Home Health Services Improvement Act of 2004	Walden (R-OR) with 28 cosponsors	To extend the temporary increase in payments under the Medicare Program for home health services furnished in a rural area.
H.R.4898 (July 22, 2004)	Brown (D-OH) with 7 cosponsors	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize the Medicare Program by ensuring that appropriate preventive services are covered under such program.
S.2714 (July 21, 2004) Medicare Prescription Drug Price Reduction Act of 2004	Daschle (D-SD) with 7 cosponsors	A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as added by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and

		Modernization Act of 2003, to provide for negotiation of fair prices for Medicare prescription drugs.
S.2698 (July 20, 2004)	Grassley (R-IA) with 1 cosponsor	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revoke the unique ability of the Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations to deem hospitals to meet certain requirements under the Medicare program and to provide for greater accountability of the Joint Commission to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
S.2694 (July 20, 2004) Medicare Assurance of Rx Transitional Assistance Act of 2004	Bingaman (D-NM)	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the automatic enrollment of Medicaid beneficiaries for prescription drug benefits under part D of such title, and for other purposes.
H.R.4877 (July 20, 2004)	Stark (D-CA)	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revoke the unique ability of the Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations to deem hospitals to meet certain requirements under the Medicare Program and to provide for greater accountability of the Joint Commission to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
H.R.4871 (July 20, 2004) Puerto Rico Hospitals Medicare DSH Equity Act of 2004	McCrery (R-LA) with 6 cosponsors	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for equity in the calculation of Medicare

		disproportionate share hospital payments for hospitals in Puerto Rico.
S. 2667 (July 15, 2004) Medicare Replacement Drug Demonstration Project Improvement Act of 2004	Dayton (D-MN)	A bill to amend section 641 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to improve the coverage of certain prescription drugs and biologicals under the Medicare replacement drug demonstration project.
S.2659 (July 15, 2004) Medicare Rural Home Health Services Improvement Act of 2004	Collins (R-ME) with 9 cosponsors	A bill to extend the temporary increase in payments under the Medicare program for home health services furnished in a rural area.
S. 2652 (July 14, 2004) Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act of 2004	Durbin (D-IL)	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deliver a meaningful benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare program.
H.R.4822 (July 13, 2004)	Johnson (R-TX) with 2 cosponsors	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the right of Medicare beneficiaries to enter into private contracts with physicians and other health care professionals for the provision of health services for which no payment is sought under the Medicare Program.
S. 2629 (July 8, 2004) Closing the Coverage Gap Act of 2004	Boxer (D-CA) with 1 cosponsor	A bill to amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to eliminate the coverage gap, to eliminate HMO subsidies, to repeal health

		savings accounts, and for other purposes.
S.2614 (July 7, 2004) ESRD Modernization Act of 2004	Conrad (D-ND) with 1 cosponsor	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the benefits under the medicare program for beneficiaries with kidney disease, and for other purposes.
H.R.4724 (June 25, 2004) Medicare Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner Services Coverage Act of 2004	Burr (R-NC) with 3 cosponsors	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of clinical pharmacist practitioner services under part B of the Medicare Program.
S.2593 (June 24, 2004) Geriatric and Chronic Care Management Act of 2004	Lincoln (D-AR) with 11 cosponsors	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiaries with access to geriatric assessments and chronic care management, and for other purposes.
S.2587 (June 24, 2004) Ensuring Quality and Access to Cancer Care Act of 2004	Stabenow (D-MI) with 1 cosponsor	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act adjust the amount of payment under the physician fee schedule for drug administration services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries.
H.R.4689 (June 24, 2004) Geriatric and Chronic Care Management Act of 2004	Green (D-TX) with 5 cosponsors	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiaries with access to geriatric assessments and chronic care management, and for other purposes.
H.R.4687 (June 24, 2004)	Kind (D-WI) with 1 cosponsor	To amend part C of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require Medicare Advantage (MA) organizations to pay for critical access hospital

		services and rural health clinic services at a rate that is at least 101 percent of the payment rate otherwise applicable under the Medicare Program.
S.2562 (June 23, 2004) Medicare Quality Improvement Act of 2004	Baucus (D-MT)	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act provide incentives for the furnishing of quality care under Medicare Advantage plans and by end stage renal disease providers and facilities, and for other purposes.
H.R.4672 (June 23, 2004)	Kennedy (D-RI) with 1 cosponsor	To amend part C of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit the comparative cost adjustment (CCA) program from operating in the State of Rhode Island.
H.R.4626 (June 21, 2004) Screening Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms Very Efficiently (SAAAVE) Act	Greenwood (R-PA) with 9 cosponsors	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of screening ultrasound for abdominal aortic aneurysms under part B of the Medicare Program.
S.2535 (June 17, 2004) Medicare Preventive Services Coverage Act of 2004	Graham (D-FL) with 2 cosponsors	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize the medicare program by ensuring that appropriate preventive services are covered under such program.
S.2512 (June 8, 2004) Drug Discount Card Simplification Act of 2004	Conrad (D-ND)	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to simplify the Medicare prescription drug card program, and for other purposes.
H.R.4512 (June 3, 2004) Medicare Prescription Drug	Wu (D-OR)	To amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security

Improvement Act <i>Pharmaceutical Market Access Act of 2004</i>		Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prices for Medicare prescription drugs and to eliminate the gap in coverage of Medicare prescription drug benefits, to authorize the Secretary of HHS to promulgate regulations for the reimportation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes.
H.R.4491 (June 2, 2004)	Hobson (R-OH) with 15 cosponsors	To amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the reduction in Medicare payment for certain items of durable medical equipment.
S.2487 (June 2, 2004) “Right Prescription for Seniors Act of 2004”	Dayton (D-MN)	To amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure that every Medicare beneficiary has access to a Medicare administered prescription drug plan option, and for other purposes.
S.2473 (May 21, 2004) “Medicare Trust Fund Reimbursement Act of 2004”	Lautenberg (D-NJ) w/5 cosponsors	To require the repayment of appropriated funds that are illegally disbursed for political purposes by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
H.R.4458 (May 20, 2004) “Medicare Trust Fund Reimbursement Act of 2004”	Pallone (D-NJ) w/ 27 cosponsors	To require the repayment of appropriated funds that are illegally disbursed for political purposes by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
H.R.4437 (May 20, 2004) “Medicare Prescription Drug Low-Income Assistance Act of 2004”	Dingell (D-MI) w/24 cosponsors	To amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for low-income beneficiaries in the

		Medicare Savings programs automatic enrollment and eligibility for low-income subsidies under the Medicare transitional and permanent prescription drug programs.
S.2413 (May 12, 2004) “Medicare Assurance of Rx Transitional Assistance Act of 2004”	Bingaman (D-NM) w/6 cosponsors	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the automatic enrollment of Medicaid beneficiaries for prescription drug benefits under part D of such title and for other purposes.
S.RES.358 (May 12, 2004)	Daschle (D-SD) w/20 cosponsors	Expressing the sense of the Senate that no later than December 31, 2006, legislation should be enacted to provide every individual in the United States with the opportunity to purchase health insurance coverage that is the same as, or is better than, the health insurance coverage available to members of Congress, at the same or lower rates.
H.R. 4336 (May 11, 2004)	Norton (D-DC)	To amend part C of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit the operation of the Medicare comparative cost adjustment (CCA) program in the District of Columbia.
H.R. 4321 (May 10, 2004)	Lynch (D-MA)	To amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate and disclose lowest possible prices for prescription drug prices for Medicare

		beneficiaries.
H.R. 4304 (May 6, 2004) “Medicare Preservation and Anti-Privatization Act”	Boswell (D-IA) w/51 cosponsors	To amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to eliminate overpayments to health maintenance organizations and other private plans under part C of title XVIII of the Social Security Act.
S.2343 (Apr 22, 2004) “Medicare Modernization Improvement Act of 2004”	Conrad (D-ND) with Lincoln (D-AR)	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the Medicare Program, and for other purposes.
H.R.4195 (Apr 22, 2004) “Preserving Access to Affordable Drugs Act of 2004”	Menendez (D-NJ) with 6 co-sponsors	To amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the coordination of prescription drug coverage provided under the Medicare Program, and for other purposes.
S.2339 (Apr 22, 2004) “Preserving Access to Affordable Drugs Act of 2004”	Corzine (D-NJ) with Lautenberg (D-NJ), Mikulski (D-MD) and Stabenow (D-MI)	To amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the coordination of prescription drug coverage provided under the Medicare Program, and for other purposes.
S.2300 (Apr 7, 2004) “Defense of Medicare Act”	Kennedy (D-MA) with Bingaman (D-NM), Corzine (D-NJ), Edwards (D-NC) Lautenberg (D-NJ), Pryor (D-AR), Boxer (D-CA), Durbin (D-IL), Hollings (D-SC), Mikulski (D-MD) and Stabenow (D-MI)	A bill to amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to eliminate privatization of the Medicare program and to reduce excessive payments to health maintenance organizations and other private sector insurance plans.

S.2284 (Apr 6, 2004) “Medicare Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Project Expansion Act of 2004”	Nelson (D-NE) with Brownback (R-KS)	A bill to expand the Medicare rural community hospital demonstration program to include outpatient services.
S.2257 (Mar 30, 2004) “Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act of 2004”	Durbin (D-IL), with Dayton (D-MN) and Levin (D-MI)	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deliver a meaningful benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare program.
S.2234 (Mar 25, 2004) “Drug Discount Card Improvement Act of 2004”	Daschle (D-SD) with Kennedy (D-MA), Reed (D-RI), Feingold (D-WI), Kohl (D-WI), Durbin (D- IL), Bingaman (D-NM), Graham (D-FL), Reid (D- NV) and Dodd (D-CT)	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure that prescription drug card sponsors pass along discounts to beneficiaries under the Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Card and Transitional Assistance Program.
S.2222 (Mar 22, 2004) “Medicaid and CHIP Safety Net Preservation Act of 2004”	Baucus (D-MT) and Rockefeller (D-WV)	A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to clarify and ensure that the authority granted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 115 of that Act is used solely to promote the objectives of the Medicaid and State Children’s Health Insurance Programs.
S.2217 (Mar 12, 2004) “Closing the Health Care Gap Act of 2004”	Frist (R-TN)	A bill to improve the health of health disparity populations

H.R. 3935 (Mar 10,2004) “Medicare Equity and Fairness in Fee-for-service Reimbursement Act of 2004”	Wu (D-OR)	To amend title XVII of the Social Security Act to provide geographic equity in Fee-for-Service reimbursement for providers under the Medicare Program.
22 Different State Specific Bills (Michigan-House & Senate, Pennsylvania, New Jersey-House & Senate, Texas, New York-House & Senate, New Mexico House & Senate, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, California, Arkansas, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Florida-House & Senate, South Dakota (Feb 26,2004)	Various State Congressmen and Senators	Prohibition on Operation of Medicare Comparative Cost Adjustment (CCA) Program In Various States
S.2135 (Feb 26, 2004) “MediFair Act of 2004”	Murray (D-WA)with Cantwell (D-WA)	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the provisions of items and services provided to Medicare beneficiaries residing in rural areas.
S. 2130 (Feb 26,2004) “Medicare Prescription Drug Cost Containment Act of 2004”	Graham (R-SC) with Sessions (R-AL) and McCain (R-NM)	To contain the costs of the Medicare Prescription Drug Program under part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.
H.R.3854 (Feb 26,2004) “Medicare Prescription Drug Cost Containment Act of 2004”	Flake (R-AZ) with 17 co-sponsors	To contain the costs of the Medicare prescription drug program under part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.
S.2053 (Feb 6, 2004) “Medicare Enhancements	Snowe (R-ME) and Wyden (D-OR), Feinstein (D-CA)	To reduce the costs of prescription drugs for

for Needed Drugs Act of 2004”		Medicare Beneficiaries, and for other purposes.
H.R. 3767 (Feb 4, 2004) “Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act of 2004”	Berry (D-AR) and Schakowsky (D-IL) with 21 co-sponsors	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deliver a meaningful benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare Program.
H.R. 3722 (Jan 21, 2004) “Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004”	Rohrabacher (R-CA)	To amend section 1011 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 to impose conditions on Federal reimbursement of emergency health services furnished to undocumented aliens.
H.R. 3711 (Jan 20, 2004)	Wexler (D-FL) with Frank (D-MA), Owens (D-NY) and Jefferson (D-LA)	To amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173) to eliminate the comparative cost adjustment program.
H.R. 3702 (Jan 20, 2004) “Preserving Medicare for All Act of 2004”	Cardin (D-MD)	To amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, to provide additional beneficiary protections.
HR. 3707 (Jan 20, 2004)	Moore (D-KS)	To amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate fair prices of Medicare prescription drugs on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries.
S.1994 (Dec 9, 2003)	Feingold (D-WI)	A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social

		Security Act to strike the language that prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating prices for prescription drugs furnished under the Medicare program.
S.1999 (Dec 9, 2003) “Medicare Prescription Drug Price Reduction Act”	Daschle (D-SD) with Stabenow (D-MI), Graham (D-FL), Kennedy(D-MA), Pryor (D-AR), Dorgan, Boxer, Lautenberg, Bingaman, Mikulski, Johnson, Schumer, Kohl, Cantwell, and Rockefeller.	A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as added by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, to provide for negotiation of fair prices for Medicare prescription drugs.
S.1995 (Dec 9, 2003)	Daschle (D-SD) for Feingold (D-WI)	To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the MA Regional Plan Stabilization Fund.
S.1992 (Dec 9, 2003) “Defense of Medicare and Real Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Act”	Kennedy (D-MA)	A bill to amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 to eliminate privatization of the Medicare program, to improve the Medicare prescription drug benefit, to repeal health savings accounts, and for other purposes.
HR.3671 (Dec 8, 2003)	Deutsch (D-FL) with Hastings (FL), Brown (FL), Wexler (VA), and Davis (VA)	To amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as added by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, to permit the Secretary of Health and Human Services to enter into direct negotiations to promote best prices for Medicare beneficiaries.

H.R. 3672 (Dec 8, 2003)	Edwards (D-TX) with Pelosi (D-CA) and 75 other co-sponsors.	To amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as added by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, to provide for negotiation of fair prices for Medicare prescription drugs.
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All materials can be found online at thomas.loc.gov

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