



Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



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Hot News!

Republican Medicare Plan Provides NO Benefit

Rep. Betty McCollum voiced her strong opposition to HR 1, the GOP backed prescription drug legislation.

"This is not a 'first step' towards improving Medicare coverage, but it is a big step towards destroying 37 years of health care security for our seniors," McCollum said.

The House GOP bill includes sweeping changes to the Medicare program. It does not make drugs affordable for seniors or provide meaningful benefits immediately, and the plan would be run by HMOs and the private insurance industry, not Medicare.

"My job in Congress is to work to improve the quality of life for the people I represent. Rather than strengthening Medicare, this plan will completely overhaul the program. It increases costs, fails to adequately provide for current or future generations and sets up a complicated bureaucracy where benefits are unclear to the participants," McCollum said.

Under the House GOP plan, seniors are required to pay premiums even when they do not receive benefits. Medicare beneficiaries would have to buy their first \$250 worth of drugs without any federal help, then pay 20 percent of their drug costs from \$251 to \$2,000 a year. Then the Republican plan would again offer no help until a senior's annual drug costs reached \$4,900.

Nearly half of all Medicare beneficiaries would fall into this "coverage gap" between the costs every year, while still paying the monthly premium.

"Seniors will be forced to make difficult decisions between buying life-saving medicines and paying their bills or buying groceries. I support a comprehensive Medicare program for all seniors," McCollum concluded.

The bill passed the House early Friday morning, by a vote of 216-215.



Rep. McCollum met with Dr. David Beckmann, President, and Tammy Walhof, Regional Organizer and a constituent, of Bread for the World; a nonpartisan citizens' movement devoted to ending hunger worldwide.

McCollum Honors UN International Torture Survivors Day

Rep. Betty McCollum joined the Human Rights Caucus, torture survivors and doctors at a briefing this week to mark the U.N. Day Supporting Victims and Survivors of Torture.

"It is our obligation as a global community to care for - and show concern for - our international brothers and sisters. The Center for Victims of Torture in Minnesota provides the care and treatment necessary for their recovery," McCollum said.

The ramifications of torture practices are beyond the realm of our comprehension and recovery is a long-term process. Torture survivors need psychological and physical therapy to cope with the post-traumatic stress that afflicts them daily. An estimated 500,000 foreign torture survivors reside in the United States and as many as 100 million exist worldwide.

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html

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