

Opposes Premium Support in Medicare

October 28, 2003

Dear Senator:

The undersigned members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations oppose any provision in the Medicare Prescription Drug conference that starts Medicare down the road to a premium support type of bidding and plan payment structure.

We believe premium support or variations thereof will cause premiums to rise even faster than current rates of inflation and cause massive instability in the Medicare program. The Medicare Office of the Chief Actuary's August 9 charts showing extreme variations in premiums around the nation are a recipe for future volatility, confusion, and popular anger.

We oppose a bill that includes premium support or variations of premium support that result in accelerated rising premiums.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*AFL-CIO
AFSCME Retiree Program
Alliance for Retired Americans
Alzheimer's Association
American Association for International Aging
American Federation of Teachers Program on Retirement and Retirees
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
American Society on Aging
Association for Gerontology and Human Development
in Historically Black Colleges and Universities
Eldercare America
FamiliesUSA
Gray Panthers
International Union, UAW
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers
National Association of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Directors
National Association of Retired Federal Employees
National Association of Senior Companion Project Directors
National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs
National Caucus and Center on Black Aged
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Senior Citizens Law Center
OWL, the voice of midlife and older women
United Jewish Communities*