

Congress of the United States  
U.S. House of Representatives  
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Official Business



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# Congressman **Robert Menendez**



*Has a Plan to  
Strengthen Medicare  
and Add a **Real**  
Prescription Drug  
Benefit*

*This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.*

## Congress Must Pass a **Real** Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit

I support adding real prescription drug coverage to Medicare in order to help seniors with the high cost of their medication. That is why I am extremely disappointed to report that the legislation, H.R. 1, which the Republican Majority recently passed in the House, falls far short of what seniors and disabled Americans have been waiting for and deserve.

For years, Democrats have pushed for a guaranteed prescription drug benefit in Medicare that is affordable, meaningful, and available to all seniors regardless of where they live. Under the plan I support (H.R. 1199), medications would be covered just like doctors' visits and hospitalizations are today. My plan would add a drug benefit directly to Medicare, with the same deductible and copayment that seniors pay for their doctors' services today. It would also provide catastrophic coverage for out-of-pocket costs above \$2,000 a year. This is help seniors need and deserve.

# The House Medicare Drug Bill Fails Seniors

Instead of strengthening Medicare and helping seniors with the cost of their medications, the House Republican Majority bill fails to meet the health care needs of seniors.

The House Majority does nothing to reduce the cost of prescription drugs. It creates a coverage gap so wide that 50% of seniors will fall into it. Anyone paying between \$2,000 and \$5,000 for medications will receive no prescription drug benefit, even though they will continue to pay Medicare premiums.

What does the Republican bill passed by the House do? It turns



Medicare over to HMOs and the private health insurance industry. Seniors could lose the freedom to choose their own doctor and would not be guaranteed the same set of benefits that they get today. Much like before Medicare existed, seniors' ability to get the health care they need would depend on their ability to pay. The House Majority bill also has no fallback for seniors to get prescription drug coverage if there is not a private plan available in their community.

No one should be forced to leave Medicare in order to get a prescription drug benefit. I came to Congress to strengthen Medicare, not dismantle it, and I will continue to fight these privatization efforts.



## Medicare Prescription Drugs:

### Rep. Menendez's Proposal vs. House Majority Bill

	Rep. Menendez's Bill (H.R. 1199)	House Majority Bill (H.R. 1)
Guaranteed Lower Drug Prices	Yes	No
Guaranteed Minimum Prescription Drug Benefit	Yes	No
Guaranteed Monthly Premium	Yes	No
Fallback Prescription Drug Plan	Yes	No
Ensures Same Benefit and Same Premiums for Rural Beneficiaries	Yes	No
Coverage for Prescribed Medicines	Yes	Limited
Coverage Gap	No	Yes
Turns Medicare into a Voucher Program	No	Yes
Increases Costs for Doctors' Visits	No	Yes
Annual Deductible	\$100	\$250