

# TALKING POINTS



WDTTC

## Issue: Medicare Prescription Drug Bill 23

### Did you know that...

- The plan will give millions of dollars of federal money to private insurers to provide care for millions of older Americans? Source: CyberActivist.us Lowell Sun
- There's a huge coverage gap that doesn't pay out until the patient has incurred over \$5,100 in medical costs? Source: same as above
- Medicare discounts could particularly affect independent pharmacies that lack the bargaining clout of the big chains. Source: CyberActivist.us Boston.com
- Any serious attempts to contain costs were lost in the bargaining to win votes. That means the \$400 billion program is likely to cost a good deal more. Source: CyberActivist.us Time Magazine
- Rehabilitation clinics that provide inpatient physical therapy for patients recovering from knee transplants, cancer treatment and other ailments also came out on the losing side. Source: Billingsgazette.com Knight Ridder News
- This is a "backdoor deal to privatize Medicare." Source: Floor statement by Senator John Kerry, November 23, 2003.
- This bill prohibits negotiation of discounts. Source: NOW President Kim Gandy. ...
- It actually prevents Medicare from negotiating better drug prices and prevents access to lower-cost drugs available in other countries. Source: [www.johnkerry.com](http://www.johnkerry.com).
- **Today (December 9, 2003) Senator Kennedy plans to introduce legislation to correct the new law's flaws, some of which are only becoming known as analysts and journalists study its 1000 pages.** Source: Boston Globe
- Kennedy's would do away with the law's ban on negotiating directly with drug companies for best prices and would allow reimportation of drugs from Canada (with certification and inspection).

### What you can do...

- Work as hard as you can to get a Democrat elected to the Presidency. Start now!
- Sign up for [misleader.org](http://misleader.org) to get daily email contrasting Bush's rhetoric with actual facts.
- Share Talking Points with others.
- Join [moveon.org](http://moveon.org) to become informed and to get involved in simple, expedient ways.

**Special Note:** If you wish to borrow the DVD titled: *Uncovered: the whole truth about the Iraq War*, please contact **Julie Bernardin** at [julieber@aol.com](mailto:julieber@aol.com). The video contains interviews with CIA, Pentagon and Foreign Service experts (20) about the misstatements and exaggerations that served as reasons to fight a preemptive war. All those interviewed have informed opinions about the reasons we were given for war. Some support the war itself but are deeply concerned about the way information was misused. Additional information is available at [www.truthuncovered.com](http://www.truthuncovered.com).

#### For more information:

[Thomas.loc.gov](http://Thomas.loc.gov) Great site for bills, congressional committees, etc.

[vote-smart.org](http://vote-smart.org) Project Vote-Smart and contains record of how individual members of congress and senate voted on legislation.

[Moveon.org](http://Moveon.org) [Misleader.org](http://Misleader.org) [cyberactivist.us](http://cyberactivist.us)



Talking Points is presented by the Wakefield Democratic Town Committee to educate its members and the local community on key issues of the day.

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