

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 461

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the American Association of Retired Persons and the Republican Medicare prescription drug bill.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2003

Mr. WEXLER (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CLAY, and Ms. NORTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the American Association of Retired Persons and the Republican Medicare prescription drug bill.

Whereas the American Association of Retired Persons (“AARP”) urged Members of Congress earlier this year to sign a pledge promising to work with their organization in developing and passing a stable prescription drug benefit for seniors;

Whereas the Republican Medicare prescription drug bill now supported by the AARP begins the process of privatizing

Medicare, which will lead to instability and seniors frequently changing plans in response to private insurers, including HMOs reducing benefits, raising premiums and leaving coverage areas;

Whereas the AARP pledge called for a prescription drug plan that ensures affordable prices be the rule not the exception;

Whereas the AARP-supported Republican drug bill has a gaping \$2,800 hole in coverage from \$2,200–5,000 worth of medication, and this hole will grow to \$5,600 by 2013;

Whereas AARP pledge called for reasonable premiums, deductibles and co-payments to apply to everyone;

Whereas the AARP-supported Republican bill does not define the premiums into law, thereby allowing private plans to determine the monthly premium that will vary widely around the country;

Whereas the AARP pledge called for prescription drug coverage that will not leave individuals with extraordinary out-of-pocket costs;

Whereas the AARP-supported Republican bill leaves many seniors with extraordinary out-of-pocket costs, whereby a senior with average drugs costs of \$3,155 in a year (average Medicare beneficiary spending in 2006 when the bill becomes effective) must spend \$2,500 out of his or her own pocket—or nearly 71 percent of the costs;

Whereas the AARP pledge called for reductions in soaring drug costs that will keep the Medicare program affordable;

Whereas the AARP-supported Republican bill explicitly prohibits the government from negotiation with drug manufacturers to reduce drug prices for beneficiaries;

Whereas the AARP pledge called for extra help for low-income individuals that will guarantee benefits for all who need them; and

Whereas the AARP-supported Republican bill has less protections than the Senate-passed bill for those with low incomes—leaving millions of low-income beneficiaries with no help: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2               (1) is outraged that the AARP has reneged on
- 3               its pledge and is abandoning seniors by supporting
- 4               the Republican Medicare prescription drug bill;
- 5               (2) urges seniors to hold the AARP accountable
- 6               for its actions; and
- 7               (3) urges AARP to immediately reverse its deci-
- 8               sion and oppose the Republican prescription drug
- 9               bill.

○