

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2003

William D. Novelli
AARP Executive Director and CEO
601 E. Street NW
Washington, DC 20049

Dear Mr. Novelli,

We write to express our grave concerns about AARP's decision to endorse the conference report of the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act, H.R. 1. As current and potential AARP members, we are very troubled that this legislation will harm, not help, the very seniors that AARP purports to protect.

Your letter to Congress dated July 13, 2003 outlined a number of provisions that you hoped to see in any final legislation. However, the proposal you have decided to support ignores the very reasonable recommendations you made. You stated your opposition to the inclusion of a premium support structure, yet the bill at this point contains just such a provision in the form of a demonstration project. AARP expressed concerns about means testing of the wealthy and assets testing of the needy, both of which are also included. Seniors are not well served by prescription drug legislation that will eventually force them into HMOs and undermine the universal nature of Medicare, yet AARP supports both.

Many of us have long been proud to be members of AARP and supported the work your organization has done on behalf of seniors. But after watching AARP embrace a proposal that we believe will cause irrevocable harm to our constituents and seniors across the nation, we no longer wish to be a part of your organization. For those of us who are members, please accept this letter as our resignation from AARP. For those of us who are not members, please be advised that we do not intend to seek membership in AARP.

We strongly encourage you to reconsider AARP's endorsement of this legislation and to recommit the organization to advocating the needs of America's retirees.

Sincerely,

Lynn Woalsey

Louis Slaughter

Max Furr

Ray Wynn

Jan Briggs

Cynthia C. Kephart

Luella Rayburn

John Lewis

Siene E. Watson Jed Strickland

Maureen Dickey

Ed Porter

Ruben Hinojosa

Raul M. Hujalva

Jack Simpson

Grich Hous Nepelitas

Pete Stark

Bob King

Jan Schelovsky

Bob Smith

Erin L. Engel

Edie Bernice Johnson

Fry B.

Alfred Hartung

Shelley Berkley
S. T. R. R.

Barbara Lee

Liz Capps

Jerry Bunt

David Price

Joe Effie
Myra H. Green

Donald M. Payne

~~Just Miller~~

Janet Capps

Prita Lowrey

Corinne Brown

Jennie Lee

MA Shas

Ed Hill

Jim Johnson

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Alan B. Mellohan

Leah Ringer
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Ronald Davis
Hazel Doyne
Neff
Bill Deibel

Frank W. Billing
Rosa L.

Eleanor H. Norton
Rud Holt

Stephen J. Jones
John L.
Tom Allen

John Oliver
Karen McCarthy
Frank P. J.
Tom V. Jones

Alapac Waters
Paul Dupak

William J. Kardella

Sheila Jackson Lee Nancy Pelosi

Sam Rayburn

John Dingell

James L. Oberstar

John Dingell

Robert J. Matsui

Earl Blumenauer

JP

Albert R. Brown

Carolyn M. Costello

Mike Simpson

Baron Hill

Clayton Kopp

Devin Nunes

Eric Swalley

Bob Latta

Tom O'Harrow

Jerry Kilmer

Paul Tonko

Denise Ladd

Stacy Plaskett