

FACT SHEET:

Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act

The Democratic 110th Congress made it a priority to ensure access to affordable health care.

In January of 2007, the House passed H.R. 4, the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act – bipartisan legislation aimed at cutting prescription drug prices for millions of seniors and individuals with disabilities. However, Republicans in the Senate blocked action on this significant legislation, which would have provided common-sense solutions to the 43 million Americans enrolled in Medicare. It removed an unnecessary prohibition on prescription drug negotiations and allowed the Secretary of Health and Human Services to put the interests of the American people first.

Highlights of legislation:

- Repeals a provision in current law that explicitly prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from entering into negotiations with drug companies to lower the cost of prescription drugs for the 43 million beneficiaries of Medicare.
- Requires the Secretary to conduct such negotiations, but gives the Secretary broad discretion on how to most effectively implement negotiating authority to achieve the greatest discounts
- Permits Medicare Part D drug plans to obtain discounts or lower prices below those negotiated by the Secretary.

Additional Resources:

[H.R. 4 - Requiring Medicare to Negotiate Lower Prescription Drug Prices](#)

[Hoyer Statement on Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act](#)