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CENTER FOR MEDICARE ADVOCACY SUPPORTS H.R. 4: A BILL TO REQUIRE NEGOTIATION OF LOWER PART D DRUG PRICES

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The Center for Medicare Advocacy today released a letter to Representative Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, offering their support for the passage of H.R. 4, a bill to require negotiation of lower Medicare Part D drug prices.

According to Center for Medicare Advocacy Executive Director Judith Stein, “Currently the Medicare prescription drug law actually *prohibits* the government from negotiating prices for drugs on behalf of all 43 million people with Medicare. The law only lets individual plans negotiate with drug companies - this is akin to Wal-Mart allowing each local store to negotiate prices, but refusing to allow bulk purchasing for *all* of Wal-Mart. This is not an efficient or effective business model.”

H.R. 4 will allow Medicare to be a “smart shopper” and to buy medications in bulk from drug companies for the new Part D drug program.

The Center for Medicare Advocacy supports Speaker Pelosi and all our elected officials who are attempting to repair the flaws in Medicare Part D to create a Medicare prescription drug program that does not funnel billions of dollars to drug and managed care industries at the expense of older people, people with disabilities, and taxpayers.

“Let’s focus Medicare and the tax dollars that fund it on the needs of people instead of big industries,” concludes Ms. Stein.

To read the Center’s letter to Speaker Pelosi, visit:
http://www.medicareadvocacy.org/PartD_LtrForPriceNeg.pdf