



CMA Press Release – May 3, 2006

## **ADVOCACY GROUP TELLS CONGRESS “MEDICARE PART D IS NOT WORKING”**

The Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc. (the Center) filed testimony with Congress today explaining why the new Medicare prescription drug program is not working. The statement was filed in conjunction with a hearing on Medicare Part D implementation held by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means (Health Subcommittee).

“Based on our conversations with Medicare beneficiaries, their families and their advocates, the most vulnerable beneficiaries are worse off than they were before they were shifted from Medicaid to Medicare drug coverage,” says Judith Stein, Executive Director.

The Center’s testimony includes examples from around the country of how Medicare beneficiaries are hurt by Part D, including:

- Not being able to get the medicine they have been taking for chronic conditions,
- Not being charged the correct cost-sharing amounts,
- Not being able to afford the co-payments,
- Not being able to get problems resolved even when assisted by CMS.

“The design of Medicare Part D does not serve the interests of vulnerable beneficiaries,” says Judith Stein. “It is difficult to understand, hard to use, and often fails to meet the prescription drug needs of those most in need.”

The Center’s overall recommendation to Congress is that they create a single, standard Medicare prescription drug benefit, administered by the Medicare program, which is uniform and available nationwide.

The Center is a non-partisan, non-profit organization, headquartered in Connecticut, with offices in Washington, DC and around the country, that works to promote fair access to Medicare and quality health care for elders and people with disabilities.

The full text of the Center’s statement is available on its web site at [http://www.medicareadvocacy.org/PartD\\_05.2006.Testimony.htm](http://www.medicareadvocacy.org/PartD_05.2006.Testimony.htm).

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