



**CMA Press Release – June 19, 2006**

## **NEGOTIATE PART D PRICES**

No matter what side of the political spectrum one is on, helping our nation's older people and people with disabilities get necessary medications is a priority; it transcends politics. Thus the Center for Medicare Advocacy recognizes the release of the Democrats' *New Direction* plan.

Judith Stein, executive director of the Center for Medicare Advocacy, says, "The Center for Medicare Advocacy applauds the *New Direction* plan's call for granting authority to the secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate lower prescription-drug prices with pharmaceutical companies. We call on Congress and the Administration to be smart shoppers on behalf of our oldest and sickest citizens. They should insist on bulk purchasing drugs on behalf of all 43 million Medicare beneficiaries and stop pouring excessive money into private plans. To do otherwise is to waste taxpayers' money and to value private industry over seniors."

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