

## January 12, 2007 Murtha Votes to Require Medicare to Negotiate with Drug Companies for Lower Drug Prices

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### MURTHA VOTES TO REQUIRE MEDICARE TO NEGOTIATE WITH DRUG COMPANIES FOR LOWER DRUG PRICES

Washington D.C. - U.S. Rep. John Murtha voted to cut the cost of healthcare and improve access to medicines by requiring Health and Human Services to negotiate with drug companies for lower drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of ---255 to 170.

"The 2003 Medicare Rx Drug Law that created the prescription drug program included a provision that prohibited Medicare from negotiating with drug companies for lower prices for senior citizens," stated Murtha. "I have always fully supported a meaningful prescription drug plan but I voted against the 2003 plan because I felt it would hurt seniors more than it would help. And it is clear that many seniors today are facing huge out-of-pocket expenses because of the way this plan was designed. "

The new bill requires the government to negotiate with drug companies in order to lower prices for senior citizens under the Medicare program.

Murtha pointed out that the bill is supported by dozens of organizations, including AARP, National Community Pharmacists Association, Association of Community Pharmacists, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Medicare Rights Center, Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, Families USA, and Consumers Union.