

March 23 marks the one-year anniversary of the signing of health insurance reform. There are a number of important provisions in the bill that benefit seniors. Specifically, health insurance reform:

- Reduces prescription drug costs for seniors. More than 3.5 million seniors who entered the Medicare Part D 'donut hole' coverage gap in 2010 have received \$250 rebate checks. Beginning on January 1, 2011, seniors who enter the 'donut hole' are receiving even greater savings – a 50% discount on brand-name drugs. Reform completely closes the 'donut hole' by 2020. These seniors, on average, will save more than \$500 in 2011 and more than \$3,000 in 2020 on their drug costs.
- Provides a free annual wellness visit under Medicare, for the first time, beginning on January 1, 2011.
- Provides free Medicare coverage of key preventive services, such as mammograms and colonoscopies, beginning on January 1, 2011.
- Strengthens Medicare and extends the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by 12 years – from 2017 to 2029. These reforms strengthen solvency by squeezing waste out of the system and making it more efficient, without reducing benefits.
- Provides new tools to crack down on fraud in Medicare, and in 2010, a DOJ-HHS anti-Medicare fraud task force recovered a record \$4 billion on behalf of taxpayers. In passing H.R. 1, House Republicans have voted to weaken these anti-fraud efforts, with a deep cut in funds used by HHS to detect and prevent fraud.
- Provides nursing home residents with more protections from abuse and makes more information available about nursing homes so consumers are better informed.