

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

May 16, 2000

How much will this proposal cost?

It will cost about \$450 million a year. While this specific proposal is not in the President's budget, his budget includes a voluntary prescription drug benefit for all Americans over the age of 65, including military retirees. The President has provided more than sufficient funding in his budget to pay for this proposal.

Isn't the use of health plans to purchase drugs similar to what the House Republicans are proposing?

No. In fact, the use of health plans in this proposal is very similar to the President's plan, which contracts out with private purchasers to ensure competitive prices for prescription drugs.

Why do you think that this proposal will help you succeed in getting a Medicare prescription drug benefit?

If Congress can come together in a bipartisan fashion to provide this critical new benefit for military retirees over the age of 65, hopefully they can come together to provide an affordable prescription drug benefit option for all retirees over the age of 65.