

# Medicare Maladies

A Series that Exposes the Dangerous Elements of the Medicare Bill currently in Committee

## MM #1: The White House Is Misleading Grandma and Grandpa

According to the White House, Medicare reform will offer a variety of health plans modeled after the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP), the program used by federal employees - including members of Congress.

**Not entirely true. One of several Medicare bills in Congress does call for an FEHBP-style system - in 2010.**

The White House says that companies will continue to offer retirees private prescription drug coverage after the Medicare legislation is enacted.

**Not true. About 4.4 million retirees will lose their coverage.**

The White House claims that the current round of Medicare bills address the program's long-term financial solvency.

**Wrong again, and how. The addition of a huge drug entitlement clearly worsens the already ailing program.**

Want the truth on what will happen if the Medicare bills become law? Heritage Foundation experts analyzed a recent series of questions and answers from the White House (available at [www.heritage.org/research/healthcare.wm305.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/research/healthcare.wm305.cfm)). Their conclusion, as stated by Director of Health Policy Studies Robert Moffit: "What in the name of God is the administration thinking? The Medicare bills are a policy disaster."

For more information, e-mail [chris.kennedy@heritage.org](mailto:chris.kennedy@heritage.org) or call Heritage Media Services at (202) 675-1761.

("Medicare Maladies," is a new regular feature from The Heritage Foundation on the current debate over Medicare. Sad to say, there is enough wrong with the proposals in Washington that the feature is daily; another malady will come your way tomorrow. Daily "maladies" are also available at [www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org).)