

# Medicare Maladies

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

## MM #46: Four Views, One Verdict: This Is A Bad Idea

Other than the fact they're all newspapers, *The Washington Post*, the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, the *St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times* and the *Mobile (Ala.) Register* don't have much in common.

Except this: None of them are happy with proposals pending before Congress that would make prescription drugs an entitlement in Medicare. Here's what they've said this week:

**The Washington Post:** "Far from the 'major piece of reform' this bill is sometimes styled as being, this Medicare legislation contains yet another hodgepodge of half-measures that do little to cure the system's deeper ills or to cut its long-term costs. Is this really better than no bill at all?" Read the entire piece at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10028-2003Sep14.html>

**The Fort Worth Star Telegram:** "Here's an example of the [fiscal] restraint that Washington must embrace: It should scrap plans to initiate a Medicare prescription drug benefit. The nation can't afford a new program costing \$400 billion over 10 years." Read the entire piece at: <http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/news/opinion/6775889.htm>

**The St. Petersburg Times:** "...Congress is creating a monster that will be confusing to retirees and likely much more costly than its \$400-billion price tag. ... And both [bills] have a gaping hole in coverage, which would make recipients pay \$3,500 or more before catastrophic coverage kicks in." Read the entire piece at: [http://www.sptimes.com/2003/09/15/Opinion/Protecting\\_drug\\_compa.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2003/09/15/Opinion/Protecting_drug_compa.shtml)

**The Mobile Register:** "In short, it's unearned welfare for wealthy seniors, paid for by taxes taken from young workers and their children and even unborn grandchildren." Read the entire piece at: <http://www.al.com/opinion/mobileregister/index.ssf?/base/opinion/106335811986260.xml>

These gripes are legitimate. If you'd like to read something positive—like solutions to the Medicare prescription drug problem—go to The Heritage Foundation's Web site at [heritage.org](http://heritage.org).

For more information or to receive an e-mail version of "Medicare Maladies," contact [medicaremaldies@heritage.org](mailto:medicaremaldies@heritage.org) or call Heritage Media Services at (202) 675-1761.



("Medicare Maladies" is a regular feature, launched 7/14/03, from The Heritage Foundation. Sad to say, there's another malady coming your way tomorrow. Daily "maladies" are also available on [heritage.org](http://heritage.org).)