

New I.V. Library Hours:

Mondays, Tuesdays-noon to 5 p.m.

Wednesdays-11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturdays-10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Closed- Thursdays,

The Savvy Senior by Carol Martin

The Seniors Coalition recently joined members of the U.S. Senate, including Senators Rick Santorum (R-PA) and Jim Bunning (R-KY), to call for passage of the Prescription Drug and Medicare Improvement Act of 2003 (S. 1). TSC has called the bipartisan prescription drug bill the "best and most realistic hope" of delivering prescription drugs to seniors.

Ensnarled in partisan wrangling, the United States Senate has before now been unable to deliver a Medicare prescription drug bill. This year, The Seniors Coalition has thrown its weight behind the Prescription Drug and Medicare Improvement Act of 2003 (S. 1), believing it to be a sound measure that has a real chance of floor passage where others have failed. "It's not the bill we would have designed ourselves," said Dave Herman,

Executive Director of The Seniors Coalition, "but it will provide a genuine improvement in health care to millions of seniors, while embodying the principles TSC has been working for during the last several years."

In outlining its support for S. 1, TSC has cited the bill's provisions for private insurers to supply prescription drug coverage. The Seniors Coalition has also applauded the new choices and flexibility offered to seniors under the new HHS agency envisioned by the bill. Seniors would be able to choose options that best meet their needs and avoid the "one size fits all" approach that has been derided by TSC as well as the president.

Herman drew particular attention to the bill's protection for benefits that many seniors now enjoy as part of their retirement package. "By supporting current prescription drug benefits, the bill would protect seniors from abrupt changes in plans while protecting taxpayers from shouldering the full cost of a benefit that employers promised to their employees during their working years," he said.

Herman recently testified before the House that these price explosions would lead to "innovation-killing" price controls, tax increases and/or structural damage to the Medicare program itself. "It is our hope that this legislation is signed into law, and marks only the beginning of market-place reforms in Medicare," Herman said.

THURSDAY EVENING/LATE NIGHT TV schedule grid with 24 columns (6:00-5:30) and 48 rows of program listings.

FRIDAY EVENING/LATE NIGHT TV schedule grid with 24 columns (6:00-5:30) and 48 rows of program listings.

SATURDAY MORNING/AFTERNOON TV schedule grid with 24 columns (6:00-5:30) and 48 rows of program listings.

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