

For Immediate Release
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**Statement by Sandra Feldman
President, American Federation of Teachers/Healthcare
on the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill**

WASHINGTON, D.C.— It is becoming clear that the Medicare prescription drug bill will do more harm than good. Congress should reject this deeply flawed plan and develop a true bipartisan bill that provides a prescription drug plan that strengthens the Medicare program. This is what our seniors expect and deserve.

The prescription drug plan that has been offered provides, at best, inadequate benefits. Even worse, the bill will undermine the healthcare of our seniors through provisions that will privatize Medicare, eliminate existing retiree health plans and, for the first time, require Medicare to be means tested.

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The AFT represents more than 1.2 million pre-K through 12th-grade teachers, paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel, higher education faculty, nurses, healthcare workers, and federal, state and local government employees.

AFT Healthcare, a division of the AFT, represents more than 65,000 nurses and other healthcare professionals.