



President  
George J. Kourpias

Secretary-Treasurer  
Ruben Burks

June 12, 2002

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Dingell and Rangel:

The Alliance for Retired Americans, on behalf of its 2.5 million members across the nation, endorses the Medicare Fair Price Prescription Medicine Benefit Act.

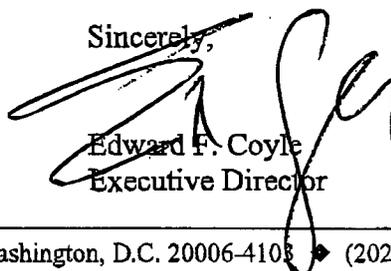
While more than 13 million older Americans and persons with disabilities have no prescription drug coverage at all, the coverage other Medicare beneficiaries have is often very expensive, inadequate and unreliable. Passage of this legislation will provide needed and substantial protection for all Medicare beneficiaries

The proposal of the House Democratic leadership measures up to our principles:

- **Coverage must be universal and comprehensive.** This Act covers all who qualify for Medicare benefits and includes a range of current and effective treatments.
- **Benefits must be defined and affordable with protections for low-income persons but no means-testing.** The premiums, deductibles, co-insurance and out-of-pocket cap in this Act are consistent with the Alliance's recommendations. In addition, there are provisions for covering all or most costs for beneficiaries below 175% of poverty and there is no assets test.
- **Enrollment must be voluntary and provide incentives for employers to maintain and expand their level of coverage.** This Act allows for those who have superior benefits to remain in their plans and it also provides employer incentives for continuing coverage.
- **Pharmaceutical prices for all consumers must be brought under some system of control.** This Act provides for the Health and Human Services Secretary to bring about lower prices through the government's negotiating power.

We will do all that we can to work with you toward achieving passage of this bill.

Sincerely,



Edward F. Coyle  
Executive Director