

NOVEMBER 24, 2003

**SCHAKOWSKY: BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S MISSTATEMENT OF THE DAY -
WINNERS & LOSERS UNDER GOP MEDICARE DRUG BILL**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) issued today's "Bush Administration's Misstatement of the Day" on the recently passed Republican Medicare prescription drug bill.

On Saturday, November 22, during his weekly radio address, President Bush said:

The House of Representatives passed legislation that would bring prescription drug coverage to Medicare and lead to health care choices for our seniors. This legislation, if also passed by the Senate, would represent the greatest improvement in senior health care since Medicare was enacted in 1965. When these reforms take full effect, our seniors would see real savings in their health care costs.

However, the President neglected to mention that the GOP bill would [dismantle Medicare](#).

The President also failed to tell the millions of listeners that the losers under this bill are the:

- [more than 6 million seniors and persons with disabilities would pay more their for prescriptions](#)
- [2.7 million retirees would lose their superior prescription drug coverage.](#)

Finally, President Bush omitted from his radio address his campaign contributors who would be the real winners under the GOP bill. According to the [Washington Post \(2 Bills Would Benefit Top Bush Fundraisers, Executives' Companies Could Get Billions, 11/24/03\)](#):

On Medicare issues, Akin Gump represents the Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America, Johnson & Johnson, Abbott Laboratories and Pfizer Inc.. All would benefit from the expanded markets resulting from a key provision of the bill -- the first federal subsidies to help Medicare patients pay for prescriptions.

Hank McKinnell, chairman and CEO of Pfizer, has pledged to raise at least \$200,000 for Bush's reelection, although he is not yet listed as a Pioneer or Ranger. Pioneer Murr

Kazmir, who runs a direct-mail drug company called Direct Meds Inc., estimates that he has about 100,000 customers on Medicare who will have more money to buy drugs from his company. "We know the patients, we know how important this bill is," he said. In addition to the prescription drugs provision, the Medicare bill is intended to encourage recipients to join preferred-provider organizations (PPOs) and other kinds of private health care, instead of receiving care through the traditional fee-for-service system in which they pick their doctors and generally get whatever care they request. The health industry has provided substantial support to the Bush campaign, and a number of officials whose companies and associations actively support the Medicare bill are Pioneers and Rangers.