

NOVEMBER 20, 2003

**SCHAKOWSKY: BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S MISSTATEMENT OF THE DAY -
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)
issued today's "Bush Administration's Misstatement of the Day" on prescription
drugs.**

**Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson today spoke at the National
Press Club. United Press International Reported that Thompson stated that the
legislation "is a good first step that will help millions of low-income seniors pay for
drugs."**

**Schakowsky said, "Nearly 10 million Medicare beneficiaries will actually be worse off
under the bill, either paying more for their health care or being dropped by their
employers from a superior drug."**

The Republican bill:

- **Forces 6 million low-income seniors who get additional assistance from Medicaid to
pay more for their prescriptions; imposes an unfair assets test that disqualifies seniors if
they have modest savings. (Office of the Democratic Leader)**

- **103,950 Medicare beneficiaries in Illinois will lose their retiree health benefits.
(Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Minority Staff)**

- **169,500 Medicaid beneficiaries in Illinois will pay more for the prescription drugs
they need. (Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Minority Staff)**