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PENCE VOICES GRAVE CONCERNS ABOUT PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL

Washington, Nov 20, 2003 - Washington, D.C.- U.S. Congressman Mike Pence, fighting laryngitis, took to the floor of the U.S. House this morning to voice his opposition to the prescription drug bill:

“Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I came to the House Floor to announce my opposition to the largest new entitlement since 1965, the Medicare Prescription Drug bill that we will consider this week.

“As my voice has weakened, strong voices in opposition have emerged including the venerable Heritage Foundation, which has been a beacon of limited government for over three decades.

“And today the editorial page of The Wall Street Journal in a piece entitled ‘Entitlements Are Forever’ makes a powerful case that Congress should reconsider before we create this massive new government entitlement.

“The Wall Street Journal says the GOP’s Medicare bill trades certain spending for speculative reform. The bottom line is the bill will add a universal drug entitlement to a largely unreformed Medicare program and warns for fiscal disaster.

“They conclude that Republicans are offering the certainty of trillions into entitlements in turn for a mere promise of future reform and that’s too expensive of a gamble for principled conservatives to support and with my very last breath I would say that I agree.

“Oppose the Medicare prescription drug entitlement.”

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