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PENCE CALLS ON HOUSE-SENATE CONFEREES TO AGREE ON RESPONSIBLE MEDICARE REF

Washington, Oct 28, 2003 - WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence issued the following statement today regarding President Bush's speech on Medicare today:

"I appreciate President Bush's dedication to this issue and his desire that House and Senate negotiators reach a compromise. Our nation's seniors near the poverty level need immediate help with the cost of prescription drugs.

"To that end, I supported the prescription drug plan that President Bush originally proposed to Congress because it was fiscally responsible and included free market Medicare reform measures.
"However, the bill I voted against on the House floor did not reflect the President's original proposal. I did not come to Congress to create a new entitlement that my children won't be able to pay for.

"To that end, eliminating cost-containment measures such as health saving accounts and means testing from any House-Senate conference agreement will be an absolute deal breaker for myself and many of my colleagues. I strongly urge House-Senate conferees to return to the free market principles of President Bush's original proposal so we can pass reasonable reform that won't usher in socialized medicine in America.

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