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PENCE GIVES “A FEW SIMPLE FACTS” ON MEDICARE

Washington, Jun 26, 2003 - WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence took to the House floor today to voice his position on the Medicare bill being considered by Congress today:

“Madam Speaker, as Congress considers the prescription drug legislation today, I think it’s important for the American people to remember a few simple facts.

“This would be the biggest new federal entitlement since 1965, when Medicare was created. Medicare currently costs seven-and-a-half times what this Congress said it would cost when it was invented.

“Seventy-six percent of seniors in America today already have prescription drug coverage. And according to the CBO, under some versions of this legislation, more than a third of those Americans who enjoy coverage from a private employer from whom they have retired could lose that coverage.

“‘If the foundations be destroyed what can the righteous do?’ Let us not in this Congress today sow the seeds to destroy the foundation of a free market system by creating a universal drug benefit in Medicare.

“The answer is the reforms the President called for, giving Americans the same choices that members of Congress have. It is not to create a massive, new federal entitlement.”

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