

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 14, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
232-H U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
204-H U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi,

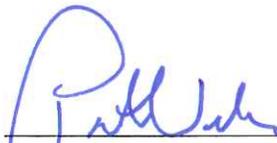
As you continue negotiations over the fiscal cliff, we urge you to find savings by allowing the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to negotiate prices for Medicare Part D prescription drugs. Negotiating prescription drug prices is a bipartisan common-sense provision that will save the federal government billions of dollars without cutting valued government programs or raising taxes.

The Veterans Administration currently negotiates with drug companies on the price it pays for veterans' prescription drugs, paying 40 percent less than Medicare Part D each year for commonly prescribed drugs. Simultaneously, the federal government wastes billions of taxpayer dollars paying full retail prices for Medicare Part D prescription drugs. Authorizing the Secretary to negotiate with drug companies on the price of Medicare Part D drugs would further bring government practice in line with the cost containment strategies of private insurers.

Empowering the Secretary to negotiate for lower prices on prescription drugs in Medicare would save the government billions while lowering drug costs for seniors.

We ask that you include this measure in any final fiscal cliff deal.

Sincerely,



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



JO ANN EMERSON
Member of Congress

Kathy Caster

Bill Owens

John ...

Daniel N. Cicilline

Red ...

Judy Chu

Rand M. Hijab

Michael ...

Daniel Lipinski

Michael H. Michaud

Juold Nadler

Tim ...

Dwight ...

Kith ...

Jan ...

Balaram ...

Brian ...

John ...

Paul King

Walter Dinkley

Lynn C. Woolsey

Wm. Lacey Clay

W.H.W.

Ch. Lee