



# The Democratic Party: The Party That Created Medicare For America's Seniors



The Bush White House Gift to the Drug Industry:  
Bad Medicine for America's Greatest Generation

*My dad was a member of the Greatest Generation that achieved victory in World War II. This was the generation that saved the world from fascism, came home and built the great American middle class, led the way in the civil rights movement, protected our environment, and created great programs like Medicare," said Kerry.*

*That's why today I'm unveiling a new Compact with America's seniors that will be a building block for the initiatives seniors can count on if I am elected President. My Compact with America's seniors says that greatest generation seniors should be able to count on Medicare and Social Security, on affordable prescription drugs, on quality options for long term care. You've earned it."*

— [Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry](#)

## The White House Gift to the Drug Industry in Context

In 1965, over 80% of House and Senate Democrats voted to create the federal Medicare government program for our nation's seniors. Only 50% of Republicans voted for the government program. Republican leaders like U.S. Senator Bob Dole voted against it.

"President Clinton, who had offered Republicans a deal to boost the drug coverage in exchange for tax cuts elsewhere, said, 'the bottom line is their plan is designed to benefit the companies who make the prescription drugs, not the older Americans who need to take them.'"

In 2003, over 80% of Republicans supported placing our Seniors prescription drug benefit in the hands of private pharmaceutical companies. By way of contrast, 80% of Democrats rejected transferring Medicare's prescription drug plan to private companies.

[[Legislative History: Vote Tallies for Passage of Medicare in 1965](#): "House passes GOP prescription drug bill" [CNN](#) 6/28/00; "Senate passes Medicare bill" [CNN Inside Politics](#) 11/25/03; "Arm-twisting wins 220-215 Medicare vote" [Washington Times](#) 11/23/03]

"These [Medicare] reforms are the act of a vibrant and compassionate government."

George W. Bush, [CNN](#) 12/8/03

That's what Bush said. It's not what his prescription drug plan does.

- Senate and Congressional Republicans overwhelmingly supported the White House-backed, corporate-written prescription drug bill.
- Republicans Lost Initial Vote, Abused Rules, Twisted Arms, Delivered Votes For Bush.
- After Sealing Deal, White House Lobbyist Goes To Work For Industry Directly.
- AARP CEO: Big Ally of Republican Newt Gingrich, Sold Out America's Seniors.
- Bush Campaign Contributor wrote legislation that could benefit his drug company.
- Pharmaceutical Profits Estimated At \$139 Billion For The Old Price Tag Of \$395 Billion.
- Republican Senator McCain: WH Drug Benefit Plan Provides Billions in Profits to Drug Companies
- Kerry's Compact with the Greatest Generation—Keeping Our Word On Affordable Prescription Drugs.

*"And now that the Greatest Generation is getting older, I think it is the responsibility of all Americans to make sure we do our part for America's seniors. You have earned the best of America – and we need to make sure you get the protection and health care you deserve."*

— Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry