

**CONGRESSWOMAN**

**ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

**10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT – CALIFORNIA**



Washington (202) 225-1880 – Walnut Creek (925) 932-8899 – Fairfield (707) 428-7792 – Antioch (925) 757-7187

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 2, 2003**

**CONTACT: April Boyd, 202/225-1880**  
**[www.house.gov/tauscher](http://www.house.gov/tauscher)**

### **Rep. Ellen Tauscher's Statement On Centrist Democrats' Prescription Drug Plan**

*House Centrist Democrats unveiled their prescription drug plan today in legislation entitled "Medicare Rx Now Act of 2003." Below is a statement by Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-Calif.) on the Dooley-Tauscher bill.*

"It is clear that the status quo isn't working to make prescription drugs affordable for seniors, and it is also clear that our country's current economic situation doesn't give Congress a lot of options for solving this growing problem.

"The plan we have put forward is managed by Medicare. We begin by reforming the system and making prescription drugs an integrated part of Medicare.

"It only makes sense to leverage the purchasing power of seniors in order to negotiate better rates on prescription drugs for them. By providing every senior with a drug discount card, our plan does this. And, it allows every single person on Medicare to benefit from immediate savings, regardless of how many prescriptions they are filling a month.

"Seniors who have high drug costs will be able to access the full benefit sooner because our plan focuses on the total cost of the drug – not the discounted price paid out-of-pocket.

"What's more, companies that currently provide prescription drug coverage to their retirees have the incentive to continue doing so because the federal government will assume the risk of drug coverage once beneficiaries reach their deductible.

"We need to be smart about how we get every American senior the prescription drug coverage they deserve. This is just a first step, but it's a desperately needed one. Seniors need relief, and they need it now. The Dooley-Tauscher prescription drug plan is the way to do that."

###