

Medicare Town Hall



Office of Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Minnesota's 4th Congressional District

Medicare “Reform” Bill

- Passed by House (220-215) on November 11, 2003
- Drug Discount Cards start June 1, 2004
- Prescription Drug Benefit Starts January 1, 2006



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Medicare Reform: Who Benefits?

- Prohibits re-importation of drugs
- Prohibits lowest cost negotiation
- Creates a \$2,800 gap in coverage
- Drug companies benefit in 2004
- Seniors must wait until 2006



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Medicare Cost Deception

- **November 2003: \$400 billion
(10 years)**
- **February 2005: \$540 billion
(10 years)**



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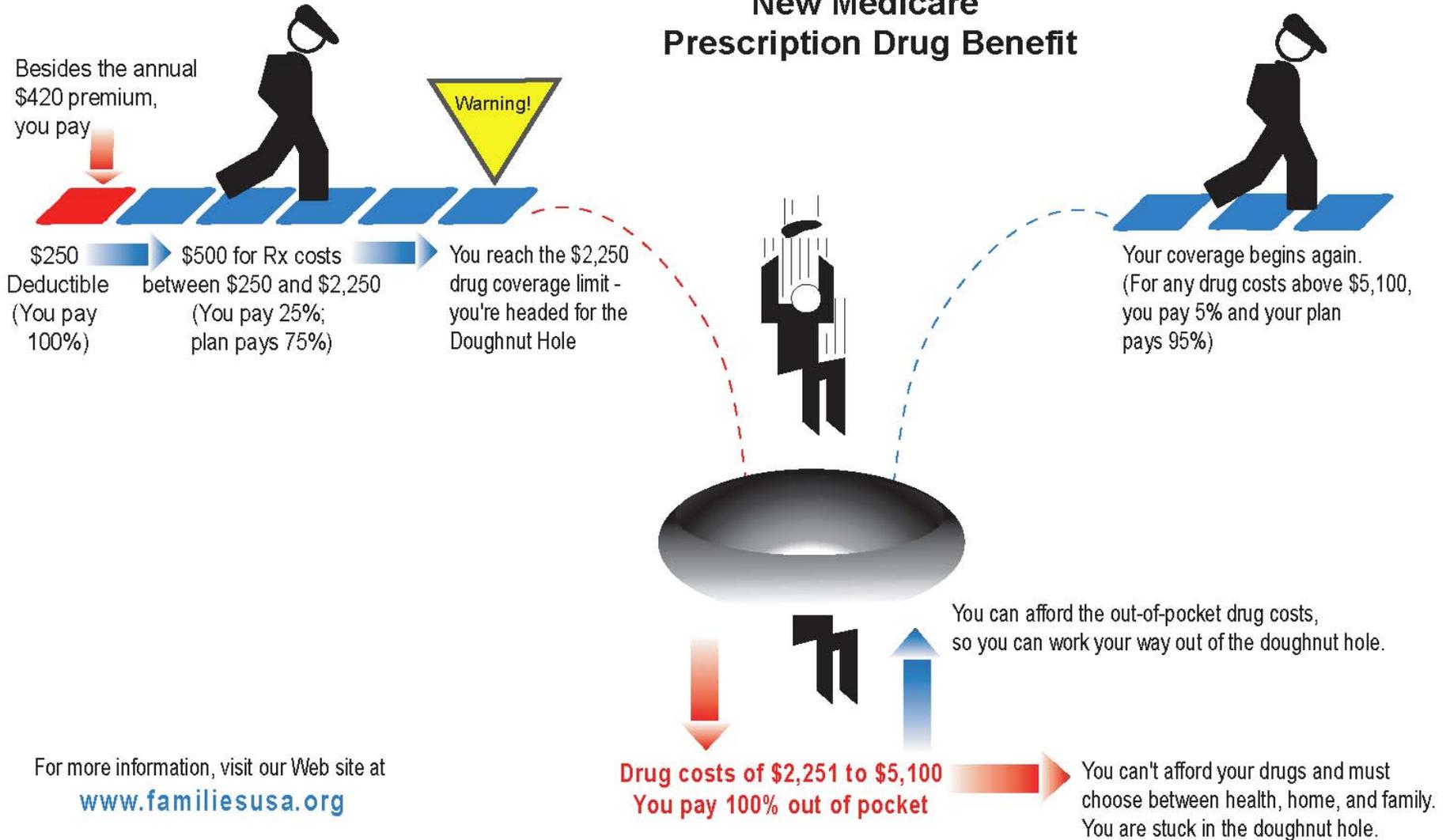
Deciphering Your Costs

\$1-\$250	You pay 100%	\$35/mo
\$251-\$2,250	You pay 25%	\$35/mo
\$2,250-\$5,100	You pay 100%	\$35/mo
\$5,101-up	You pay 5%	\$35/mo



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Welcome to the New Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit



For more information, visit our Web site at www.familiesusa.org

Prescription Drug Cards

- 48 in Minnesota, 75 Nationwide
- Can cost up to \$30
- One per beneficiary
- No guaranteed level of savings



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How Does the Drug Card Work?

- **No guaranteed discount**
- **No guaranteed drug list**
- **Your card may not be accepted at your pharmacy**



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How do I pick one?

1. Does this card provide a discount for my drugs?
2. Which card provides the greatest discount for my drugs?
3. Does my pharmacy accept the drug card?
4. Is my discount guaranteed by the card?



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Drug Cards Don't Last Forever

\$ Phase I: June-December 2004

\$ Phase II: January-December 2005

**\$ You must pay for the card in 2004
and again in 2005
(up to \$60 for the 18 months)**



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Remember...

- Drug card companies can change their drug list each week
- Medicare beneficiaries cannot change during the life of their drug card
- Once you pick, you've got to stick!



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Our Alternative

1. Use purchasing power of federal government to negotiate lowest cost.
2. Legalize re-importation of drugs from FDA approved facilities.
3. Guarantee coverage with no gaps, doughnut holes, or trap doors
4. Make the benefit user-friendly



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