



Hon. Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

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HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

Strengthening Medicare

Medicare is an unshakeable compact between generations. *In the Sacramento region represented by Congresswoman Matsui, Medicare provides coverage to more than 80,000 beneficiaries.* It is a central part of the social safety net that makes Sacramento a vibrant place to live, work, and raise a family.

Health insurance reform will guarantee that Medicare remains strong over the long term, improve the benefits offered to Sacramento's seniors through the program, and attack waste and fraud that adds nothing to beneficiary value and accounts for up to 20 percent of all Medicare spending. Some of the most important Medicare policies included in health insurance reform are as follows:

- **EXTENDS TRUST FUND SOLVENCY BY NINE YEARS:** Under the status quo, the trust fund that finances hospital benefits under Medicare will go bankrupt by 2017. Health insurance reform eliminates that threat, guaranteeing that Medicare benefits will be available for future generations.
- **LOWERS PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS:** Millions of seniors across the country fall victim to the Medicare Part D "donut hole" every year, which means that they are responsible for the full cost of drugs above a certain threshold. Health insurance reform completely closes the "donut hole" by 2020, *ensuring that all 77,000 Part D beneficiaries in Sacramento will be able to afford their lifesaving medications.*
- **EMPHASIZES PREVENTIVE CARE:** With health insurance reform, all preventive care services will be provided to Medicare beneficiaries without co-payments or cost-sharing. This will ensure that Sacramento's seniors get the preventive care they need to stay healthy and avoid long-term hospital stays.
- **INVESTS IN CARE COORDINATION:** Patient-centered medical homes, accountable care organizations, and payment bundling are already largely in use across Sacramento's health-care system. Health insurance reform will bring these proven delivery system models to Medicare on a wider basis, ensuring that beneficiaries are not subjected to unnecessary tests that put their health at risk.
- **ATTACKS WASTE AND FRAUD:** Health insurance reform will cut out duplicative testing, reduce unnecessary paperwork, and save \$150 billion in wasteful over-payments to private insurance plans. It will also crack down on criminals who bill Medicare fraudulently.