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# United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

REPLY TO:

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131 WEST 3RD STREET  
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307 FEDERAL BUILDING  
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204  
(712) 322-7103

August 12, 2003

Mr. Tony Beraldi  
701 16th Avenue  
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

Dear Mr. Beraldi:

Thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding Medicare. It's always good to hear from people back home and I apologize for the delay in my response.

I am pleased to announce that the Prescription Drug and Medicare Improvement Act of 2003 was recently passed by both the House and Senate. As Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I have looked long and hard at many of our options and I believe this legislation would truly benefit Iowa seniors, as well as seniors across the country.

You will be happy to know that Sen. Enzi's amendment was included in this legislation. As you may know, this amendment would require that any Medicare prescription drug plan permitting an enrollee to get a 90 day supply of their prescription through a mail order pharmacy, must also allow an enrollee to get a 90 day supply of their prescription at their local pharmacy.

Additionally, S. 1 requires that prescription drug plans and prescription drug card programs secure the participation of a sufficient number of pharmacies in the network that would dispense drugs directly to beneficiaries to ensure convenient access for Iowa seniors.

I believe that the Prescription Drug and Medicare Improvement Act of 2003 is a key step toward improving the quality of health care both in Iowa and across the country. Although we have crossed a major hurdle by passing this legislation, the House and Senate must now enter into negotiations to iron out the differences in each bill. As top negotiator for the Senate, I look forward to

CHAIRMAN,  
FINANCE

Committee Assignments:

BUDGET  
JUDICIARY  
AGRICULTURE

CHAIRMAN,  
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS  
CONTROL CAUCUS

working hard to get this bipartisan legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by the President.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I appreciate hearing your views and urge you to keep in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

CEG/mz