



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



The Bush Administration Deliberately Withheld Real Cost Of
Corporate-Written Medicare Prescription Drug Program.

"Now we learn the shocking truth: that [the Bush Administration] knew it all along. And even worse, the government's top expert on Medicare costs had been told to keep quiet - or pay the price. There is no place for silencing the truth."

— *Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry*
[Press Release](#) 3/15/04

The Bush White House Medicare Drug Cost Scandal in Context

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

When the Bush Administration said that the program would cost \$395 billion, Boston University's School of Public Health published a report that estimated corporate profit from the Republican Medicare prescription drug plan at \$139 billion. Bush's Prescription Drug Program barely passed in the House of Representatives on a 216-215 vote and in the Senate on a 54-44 vote.

Now we find out that though the White House said the program costs were \$395 billion, the Bush Administration knew the costs were almost \$552 billion—a \$157 billion difference. The White House knew it and deliberately hid the real costs from Congress and the American people.

Senate and House Democratic leaders including Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle have demanded that the law be brought up again for a vote based on the real numbers. Republican leaders have refused to reopen the debate much less to call for a second round of votes. As Democratic Presidential Nominee John Kerry said, "Americans deserve better than this."

[[Legislative History: Vote Tallies for Passage of Medicare in 1965](#); "Senate passes Medicare bill" [CNN](#) 11.25.03; "Daschle call for a revote on Medicare drug bill" [Miami Herald](#) 3/13/04; Press Release: [Kerry on Bush's Growing Credibility Gap on Medicare](#) 3/15/04]

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

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

- The Bush Administration Deliberately Withheld Real Cost Of Medicare Prescription Drug Program.
- White House Negotiator Withheld Crucial Financial Data; Gagged and Threatened to Fire Medicare Actuary.
- Pharmaceutical Profits estimated at \$139 billion for the old price tag of \$395 billion. Profits not yet known at the REAL price tag of almost \$552 billion.
- White House Refused to Allow Bush's Chief health-policy adviser testify as to whether he suppressed or passed on to senior Bush administration officials the higher figures he had obtained in early June, 2003.
- Democrats Demand Re-vote: Republicans Refuse An Honest Vote on Medicare.
- Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry: Choosing Seniors Over Pharmaceutical Profits.
 - For more information, please visit our website at www.sccdp.org/healthcare .

I believe the American people deserve real answers on why this Administration is keeping public officials quiet and keeping facts from the American people. We deserve better than this.

— *Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry*
[Press Release](#) 3/15/04