

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HOW THE HEALTH CARE LAW BENEFITS SENIORS

- **Reduces prescription drug costs for seniors.** More than 3.5 million seniors who entered the Medicare Part D ‘donut hole’ coverage gap in 2010 have received \$250 rebate checks. Beginning on January 1, 2011, seniors who enter the ‘donut hole’ are receiving even greater savings – a 50% discount on brand-name drugs. Reform completely closes the ‘donut hole’ by 2020. These seniors, on average, will save more than \$500 in 2011 and more than \$3,000 in 2020 on their drug costs.
- **Provides a free annual wellness visit under Medicare,** for the first time, beginning on January 1, 2011.
- **Provides free Medicare coverage of key preventive services,** such as mammograms and colonoscopies, beginning on January 1, 2011.
- **Strengthens Medicare and extends the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by 12 years – from 2017 to 2029.** These reforms strengthen solvency by squeezing waste out of the system and making it more efficient, without reducing benefits.
- **Provides new tools to crack down on fraud in Medicare,** and in 2010, a DOJ-HHS anti-Medicare fraud task force recovered a record \$4 billion on behalf of taxpayers. In passing H.R. 1, House Republicans have voted to weaken these anti-fraud efforts, with a deep cut in funds used by HHS to detect and prevent fraud.
- **Helps seniors remain at home and stay out of nursing homes,** with the new Community First Choice Option, allowing states to offer home-based services to disabled individuals through Medicaid rather than institutional care, beginning on October 1, 2011.
- **Provides nursing home residents with more protections from abuse** and makes more information available about nursing homes so consumers are better informed.