



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

# Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

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For Immediate Release

Thursday, April 19, 2001

## Grassley Announces Hearing on Medicare, Prescription Drugs

Hearing: "Finding the Right Fit: Medicare, Prescription Drugs and Current Coverage Options"  
Date/time: Tuesday, April 24, 2001, at 10 a.m.  
Location: 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Description: Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, and other members of Congress apply the credo "first, do no harm" to the prospect of adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare. Grassley said, "We must ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that any new benefit does not threaten the existing prescription drug coverage that many older Americans already enjoy today." Toward that end, Grassley will convene a hearing: (1) to examine existing prescription drug options for Medicare-eligible beneficiaries through retiree health plans, the Medicare+Choice and Medigap programs, and state options such as Medicaid and State Pharmacy Assistance Programs, (2) to evaluate the most recent data on the number of Medicare-eligibles who currently have prescription drug benefits, and (3) to discuss the implications of a new Medicare drug benefit on beneficiaries and their existing coverage.

### Witness List

A Panel Consisting of:

Steven M. Coppock, Principal, Hewitt Associates, LLC., Rowayton, Conn.

Karen Ignagni, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Association of Health Plans, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Deborah J. Chollet, Senior Fellow, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., Washington, D.C.

Dr. Raymond C. Sheppach, Executive Director, National Governors Association, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Stephen Crystal, Research Professor; Chair, Division on Aging; Director, AIDS Research Group; Associate Director for Research, Center for State Health Policy, Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.