

**AARP'S PLEDGE DOESN'T MATCH
WITH THE REPUBLICAN MEDICARE BILL**

"I pledge to work with AARP and enact a Medicare Prescription drug benefit this year based on the following criteria:"

AARP PLEDGE	REPUBLICAN MEDICARE BILL
"A stable prescription drug benefit"	<p>The benefit has a gaping \$2800 hole in coverage between \$2200-\$5000 worth of medications. This hole grows to \$5600 by 2013.</p> <p>Private drug plans and managed care plans will come and go from Medicare forcing beneficiaries to frequently switch plans with different drug formularies, pharmacies, etc.</p>
"affordable prices will be the rule, not the exception"	The bill prohibits the government from negotiating with drug manufacturers for better prices.
"Reasonable premiums, deductibles and copayments will apply to everyone"	Premiums are not defined in law. Private plans determine the monthly premium and it will vary widely around the country.
"prescription drug coverage will leave no individual with extraordinary out-of-pocket costs"	A senior with drug needs of \$3155 in a year (average Medicare beneficiary spending in 2006 when the bill becomes effective) must spend \$2500 out of their own pocket – or nearly 71% of all costs!
"reductions in soaring drug costs will keep the program affordable"	The bill explicitly prohibits the government from negotiating with drug manufacturers to reduce drug prices for beneficiaries.
"Xtra help for low-income individuals will guarantee benefits for all who need them"	The bill has less protections than the Senate-passed bill for those with low incomes – leaving millions of low income beneficiaries with no help.