

[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting my office regarding prescription drugs. I appreciate you sharing your thoughts and concerns with me on this important issue.

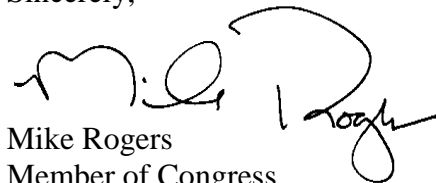
Like you, I am gravely concerned by the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs and frustrated by the fact that other countries benefit from Americans subsidizing the research and development costs faced by pharmaceutical companies. Therefore, I supported the Gutknecht amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations bill that would allow an individual to import prescription drugs for personal use. This amendment was adopted and I am hopeful that our seniors will benefit should it be maintained in the conference report.

President Bush announced his Medicare reforms on July 12, 2001, that included a proposal for a drug discount card. It is my understanding that every senior on Medicare could receive a new drug discount card that would cost as much as \$1-2 per month. The card would be presented at a participating pharmacy, where seniors would be eligible to receive a substantial discount.

The President indicated the drug discount plan is only the first step to providing immediate help to seniors without destabilizing Medicare's finances and that it is not a substitute for a drug benefit. I am looking forward to voting in support of a plan that gives seniors access to the prescriptions they need without having to make difficult financial choices between other vital life necessities.

Again, thank you for your correspondence. If you have further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

MR/hlk