

## Rothman Statement On Prescription Drugs

July 31, 2003

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Hackensack, NJ - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today released the following statement on prescription drugs for seniors.

"For seven years, I have been pushing for and voting for a voluntary prescription drug benefit under Medicare that will give seniors access to the quality, affordable medicines they need. Such a benefit, I believe, is the best and most comprehensive way to provide access to these life-saving medicines and, in turn, to lower the cost of such drugs for our seniors.

"On June 11, 2003, Representative Gil Gutknecht introduced H.R. 2427, the Pharmaceutical Market Access Act of 2003. On July 25, 2003, H.R. 2427 passed the House by a vote of 243-186. I voted against that bill because I do not believe we should compromise the safety and efficacy of the nation's drug supply and jeopardize the health of our seniors by reimporting drugs - without FDA oversight and protection. Instead, we must lower costs by enacting a final Medicare bill, fully funded - this year - that will lower drug prices and cover all our seniors with a comprehensive and voluntary prescription drug plan."

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