

Instructions for the petition to oppose the Bush Administration's continued privatization of the Medicare program.

1. Sign and send it to:

**The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader, United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2803**

2. Please forward this petition to your friends, relatives and any interested parties. We need many signatures.



United Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals

Petition to: Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader, United States Senate

We the undersigned oppose the Bush administration's continued privatization of the Medicare program.

- Government health programs such as Medicare have faced substantial cuts while private for profit plans such as Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage) are estimated to gain \$54 billion in subsidies over five years.
- The **Medicare Modernization Act of 2003** was designed to have an automatic triggering mechanism which will initiate a process calculated to provide a large reduction in Medicare Part B as early as 2009.
- Medicare Advantage is a **DISADVANTAGE** to Medicare beneficiaries. The overpayment to private for profit plans increases **Part B** premiums for all Medicare beneficiaries. 81% of Medicare beneficiaries are paying to subsidize 19% of those in private for profit plans.
- Insurance industries' profits have greatly increased because the subsidies they receive are not completely passed along to their beneficiaries. Private for profit plans are subject to few public reporting requirements.
- The President has shown his hostility to government health programs as exemplified by his veto to the S-CHIP program (Children's Health Program) and by his insistence that the Federal government can not afford to continue supporting Medicare.
- We are **DEMANDING** that the playing field be made level by equalizing payments between the traditional plan, **Part B (Medicare)** and the private for profit plans within Medicare Part C.

(please print your name, signature & address in the lines below)
