



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.

Print Name

Address

Signature

