EXHIBIT 2

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Nick Smith's Press Release - November 24, 2003

Smith Plays Key Role in Medicare Debate

Resists Intense Pressure to Vote for Medicare Bill

(Washington, D.C.) -- Washington was abuzz Monday over the resolve of Congressman Nick Smith (R-Michigan) who resisted intense pressure to vote for the Medicare bill. Following a story that appeared on Sunday in the Washington Post, Congressman Nick Smith responded with this statement:

"I thought I knew 'arm-twisting' serving 16 years in the Michigan legislature and 11 years in the United States Congress. However, this was the most intense and strongest pressure to change my vote that I've ever experienced."

"Being a strong fiscal conservative and having voted no on the two prescription drug bills I was a target for early pressure to vote yes on this third go-round."

"My only regret is that it might have hurt my son. Advocates of the Medicare prescription drug bill had figured out that my vulnerability might lie in my strong support for my family. Since I'm retiring and my son Brad is running for my seat. I got significant promises for help for his campaign and threats they'd work against him if I voted no."

"Brad got word of the situation and called me and told me that he didn't want to go to Congress this way. He told me to do the right thing. That helped my resolve."

The Sunday Washington Post reported the following on the front page regarding Congressional lobbying efforts for the Medicare Bill:

> *"Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson, who had been working the Capitol all day, defied custom and moved onto the House floor. He and Hastert avoided the back rows where many of the conservatives were clustered, and targeted "no" voters such as Reps. John Shadegg (R-Ariz.) and Nick Smith (R-Mich.), who were standing or sitting alone.*
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> *The broad-shouldered speaker, moving through the crowded aisles like a fullback, plumped down next to Smith, who is retiring next year after 40 years in a succession of public offices. Hastert threw an arm around Smith's shoulder and leaned in as Thompson moved into the seat on the other side. Aides recounted that Hastert said Smith's help was vital to the party and the president -- a fitting gift at the end of a long career -- and suggested it would also help Smith's son, who plans to run for the seat.*
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> *But the former dairy farmer, a budget hawk, waved his hands as if in dismissal and told Hastert that his son had advised him, "Do what is right." He was unmoved -- and remained so as Hastert and other legislators returned often to plead the case."*

This and other newpaper articles pertaining to stories of Congressman Nick Smith can be obtained on his Newslinks page in his Newsroom section of his website.