

Office of Congressman Pete Stark
39300 Civic Center Drive, Suite 220
Fremont, CA 94538

Official Business



M.C.
Prsrt. Std.

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Dear Friend,

I hope you can join me on Saturday, March 22 at one of my upcoming town meetings to discuss a Medicare prescription drug benefit and other issues on your mind.

Sincerely,



**SATURDAY,
MARCH 22, 2003**

UNION CITY

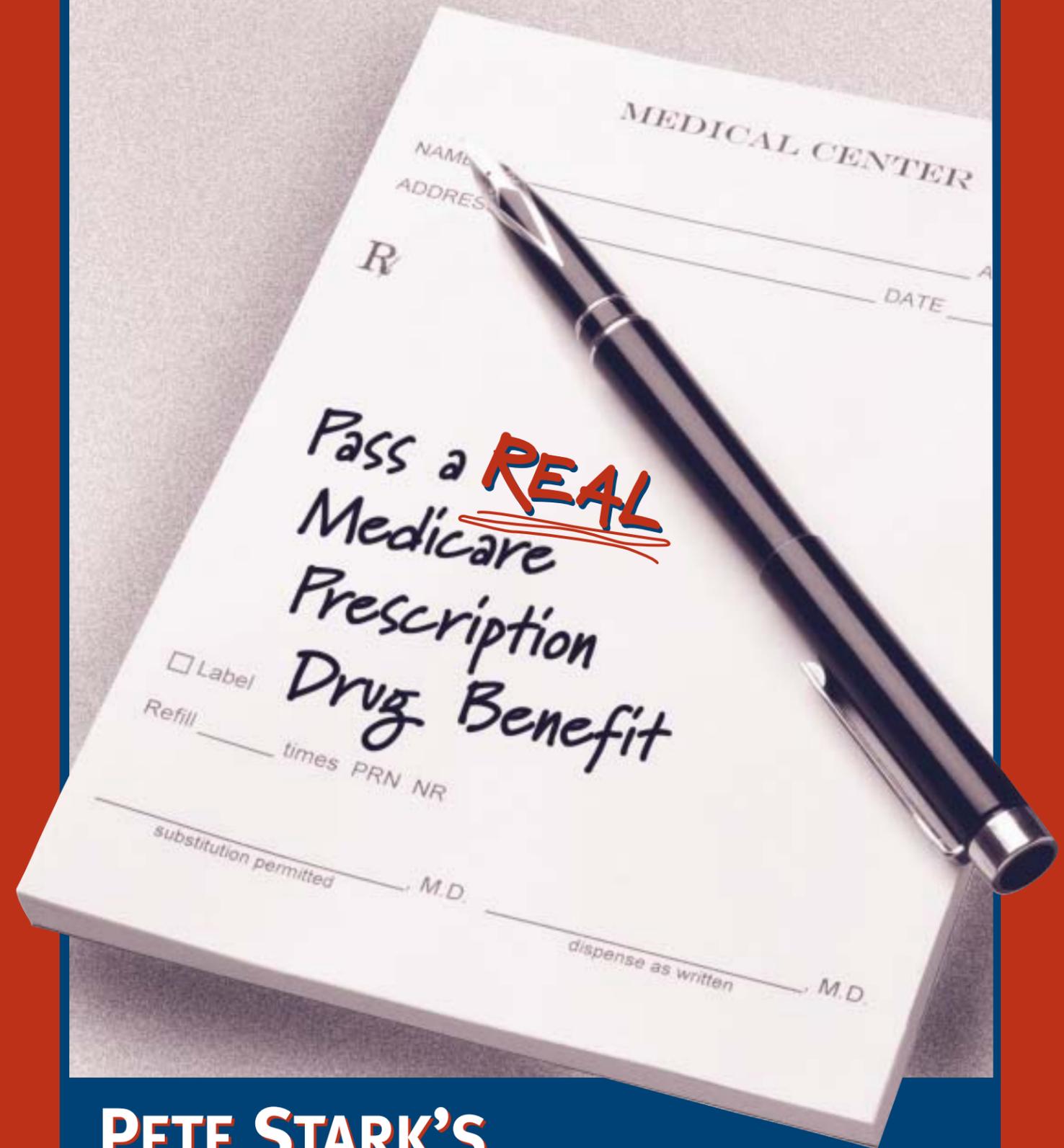
9:00 – 10:00 AM
Ruggieri Senior Center
33997 Alvarado Road

SAN LEANDRO

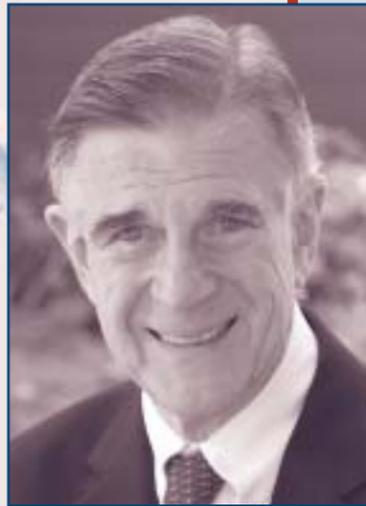
10:30 – 11:30 AM
San Leandro Library
Dave Karp
Senior Meeting Facility
300 Estudillo

ALAMEDA

12:00 NOON – 1:00 PM
Alameda City Council
Chambers
2263 Santa Clara Avenue



**PETE STARK'S
PRESCRIPTION FOR MEDICARE**



CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK HAS A PLAN TO STRENGTHEN MEDICARE AND ADD A REAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

The Bush Administration says it's too costly to add a real prescription drug benefit to Medicare. I say we must! Here's some of what I'm doing in Congress to enact a meaningful drug benefit, protect Medicare from privatization and reduce the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs.

ADDING A MEANINGFUL PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT TO MEDICARE

I support adding real prescription drug coverage to Medicare. The Administration says it's too costly to add such a drug benefit. But President Bush continues to push his \$1.5 trillion tax cut plan that disproportionately benefits those with the highest incomes.

Under the Stark plan, medications would be covered just like doctors' visits and hospitalizations are today. My plan would add a drug benefit directly to Medicare, with a \$100 deductible that is the same as the current Part B deductible, 20% coinsurance that is the same as doctor's services today and catastrophic coverage for out-of-pocket costs more than \$2,000 in a year. This is help seniors need and deserve.

PROTECTING MEDICARE FROM PRIVATIZATION

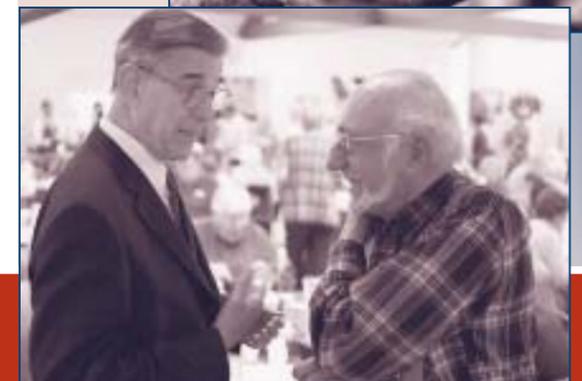
President Bush is cleverly using the debate over prescription drugs to destroy Medicare. His plan would require seniors who need a drug benefit to leave Medicare and join a private health plan. Seniors would lose the freedom to choose their own doctor, and would not be guaranteed the same set of benefits that they get today. Much like before Medicare existed, a senior's ability to get the health care they need would depend on their ability to pay.

No one should be forced to leave Medicare in order to get a prescription drug benefit. I'll keep opposing efforts to privatize Medicare. Medicare must be improved, not dismantled.

MAKING MEDICATIONS MORE AFFORDABLE

In addition to creating a Medicare drug benefit, I am working to make prescription drugs safer and more affordable by:

- 📄 Curtailing drug company advertising that fails to explain potentially dangerous side effects
- 📄 Ensuring better access to generic medications
- 📄 Limiting drug company marketing expenditures — like trips and giveaways — that are designed to entice physicians to prescribe their medications over a competitors' lower cost alternative



CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK: STANDING UP FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS

Congressman Pete Stark talks with local seniors about health care concerns.