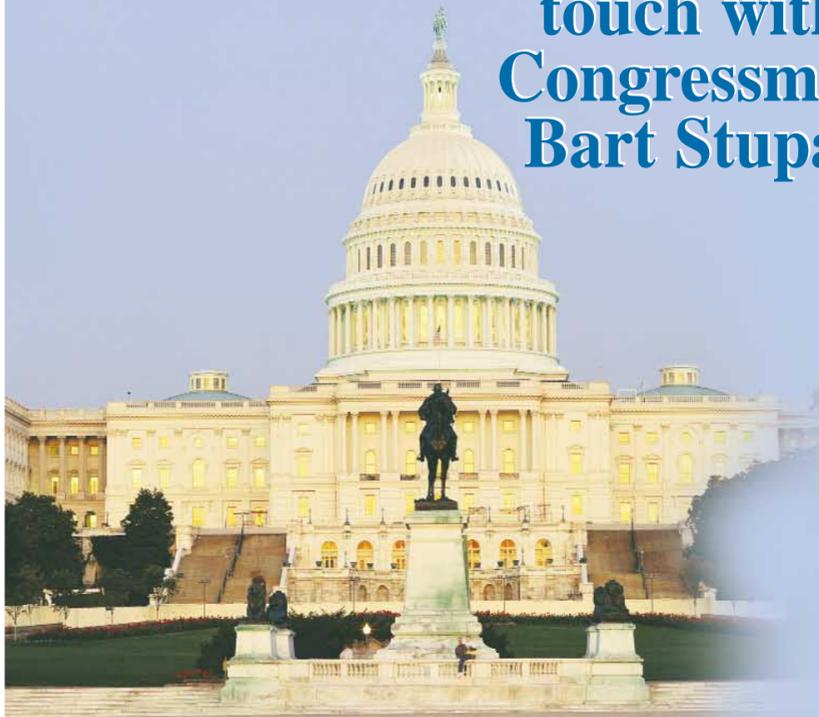


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Important Notice:

The Washington office is continuing to experience delays in mail delivery. Please use phone, fax and e-mail to bring urgent matters to Bart's attention. We regret any delay in responding to your mail inquiries. Also please make requests for flags to one of our Michigan offices.

U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515
 PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Bart Stupak
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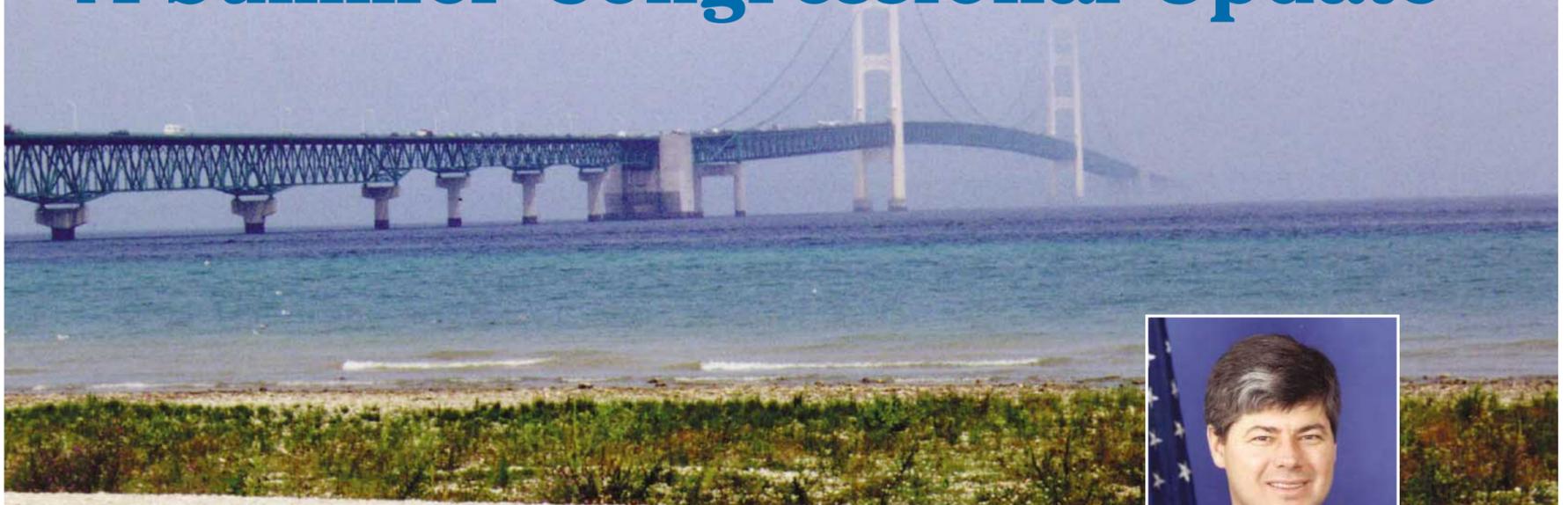
Congressman Stupak accompanies Laura Estelle of Norway, Michigan, the 1st District's winner of the 21st Annual Congressional Art competition, and her parents, Jimmy and Bridget Estelle on a tour of the White House. Laura's artwork will be displayed in a walkway connecting the Cannon House Office Building and the Capitol for one year.



Official Business

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

A Summer Congressional Update



from Congressman Bart Stupak

Comparison of Prescription Drug Proposals

Plan Element	Democratic Minority Plan	Republican Majority Plan
Guaranteed Minimum Benefit	YES	NO
Guaranteed Lower Drug Prices	YES	NO
Guaranteed Monthly Premium	\$25	NO (CBO estimates an average premium of about \$34)
Annual Deductible	\$100	\$250 (or amount that makes benefit "actuarially equivalent")
Co-Insurance Paid by Beneficiary per year	20%	20% for \$251 - \$1,000 50% for \$1,001 - \$2,000 100% of above \$2,000 until out-of-pocket = \$3,700
Counts All Co-Insurance (i.e. Medigap or Employer Coverage) toward Out-of-Pocket Cap	YES until out-of-pocket cost is \$2000	NO
Choice of Local Pharmacies	YES	Limited (Private drug insurers are allowed to limit choice)
Access to Prescribed Medicines	YES	Limited (Private drug insurers can deny coverage for not in its formulary)
Amount Saved by a Senior with \$3,000 of Prescription Drug Costs [Approx. Average Drug Costs]	\$2,020	\$692
Amount Saved by a Senior with \$1,500 of Prescription Drug Costs	\$820	\$442
Amount Saved by a Senior with \$6,000 of Prescription Drug Costs	\$4,420	\$1,892

Seniors can compare the savings in both plans by using the "Savings Calculator" at www.house.gov/reform/min/drug_plan/



Rep. Stupak discusses the high cost of prescription drugs with a constituent.

Stupak: "Majority Party's Drug Bill Bad for Seniors"

In the wee hours of the morning of Friday, June 28th, the House of Representatives passed a bill carrying the label "prescription drug reform" on a party line vote. Opponents of the bill, including Rep. Bart Stupak said it offers no real reform.

House leadership refused to allow a Minority party alternative to come to the floor for a vote, and would not consider any amendments. The Minority was not even allowed to offer an amendment that would have required American drug makers to sell drugs in the U.S. at the same prices they are sold in Europe and Canada.

The biggest flaw in the Majority plan is that it relies on the participation of private insurers, who have been telling Congress for years that they do not plan to participate in the program.

The real benefactors in this plan are pharmaceutical companies who supported the Majority plan.

To illustrate the cost difference between the two plans, Stupak cited a recent letter from a woman in Vanderbilt, Michigan, "She told me that her annual drug costs are \$6,288. Under the Democrats' plan, her cost would be \$1,638 or a 74% saving of \$4,650. The same woman will pay \$4,096 under the Republican plan, a saving of \$2,192 or 35%.

The House passed bill is a disappointment and windfall for private insurance companies and the pharmaceutical companies. To check your prescription drug savings between the two plans go to

Stupak supports relief for 99.7% of taxpayers

Noting that the current Majority party's proposal to permanently repeal the federal estate tax would save former Enron executives Ken Lay, Jeffrey Skilling and others \$371 million, Congressman Bart Stupak voted for a Minority party alternative and against the Majority plan.

"First," Stupak said, "there is no such thing as a 'death tax.' When a person dies, he or she is not taxed for dying. The estate tax is assessed on property and assets of only a very small number of Americans. In 1998, only 6 out of every 10,000 people who died paid any estate tax."

Last year Congress voted to cut the top estate tax rate and repealed the tax altogether in 2010 for one year.

In June 2002, the Majority party proposed that the total repeal be made permanent. Under their plan, the estates of the richest multimillionaires (the top 0.3%) would receive a windfall of millions in tax relief. The Minority plan would have repealed the estate tax for all but 83

estates in Michigan, and would increase the estate tax exemption to \$3 million for individuals and \$6 million for couples, immediately exempting 99.7% of all estates from any estate tax. The plan also avoids the enormous \$740 billion

loss in revenues over 10 years which would increase budget pressure on the Social Security and Medicare systems.

"I believe that in light of our current budget deficits resulting from the \$2 trillion tax cut, the economic recession and our war on terrorism,

we must spend our money carefully," Stupak said, "We must focus on shoring up Social Security and Medicare, enacting a prescription drug benefit for seniors and funding for homeland security, improving education and paying down the debt. Rewarding the Nation's 5,000 richest people with a huge tax break under current conditions is extremely fiscally irresponsible."



Congressman Stupak discusses financial windfalls that Enron Executives received.

Stupak returns budget funds again in 2001

As in previous terms in office, Rep. Bart Stupak did not use all of the funds allotted for the operation of his congressional offices. Saving taxpayers more than \$15,000 in unused funds, Stupak continued to set a fiscally conservative example for Members of Congress.

"In these times of trying to do more with fewer resources," Stupak said, "I believe that it is important for government officials to demonstrate cost efficiency and spending restraint."

Since taking office in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1993, Rep. Stupak has returned just over \$250,000 in unused funds.

