

Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis



SENIOR UPDATE

SUMMER 2003

Dear Friend,

I support a Medicare prescription drug benefit that is guaranteed, affordable, and easy-to-use. Unfortunately, the Republican prescription drug plan passed by U.S. House of Representatives in June turns Medicare over to HMOs and the private health industry. The bill does not allow the federal government to negotiate lower



Congresswoman Solis discusses the Medicare bill with members of the Congress of California Seniors in her Washington office.

drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries, as is currently done for veterans.

The bill is now being combined with the Senate's version of the legislation in order to produce a final bill to be sent to the President. Rest assured that I will continue to advocate for improvements to the bill in order to produce a Medicare drug benefit that will truly help seniors in our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hilda L. Solis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Member of Congress

IN THE MAILBAG



Q: What Social Security issues has Congress addressed this year?

A: On April 2, 2003, H.R. 743, the Social Security Protection Act of 2003, was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives. I voted for this bill that will protect Social Security beneficiaries from fraud by their “representative payees” – individuals who accept the monthly benefit payments on behalf of Social Security beneficiaries who are unable to manage their own funds.

Q: What is Congresswoman Solis' position on the Windfall Elimination Provision?

A: I recognize that the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) negatively affects workers who are entitled to a pension from work not covered by Social Security. I believe this is an unfair treatment of public sector employees who have previously worked in the private sector. That is why I am a cosponsor of H.R. 594, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2003, a bill that would repeal the WEP.

Q: What is the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)?

A: The Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). This year's COLA is 1.4%. I support improving the Social Security COLA to reflect the true spending needs of seniors and am a cosponsor of H.R. 2262, the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act. This legislation establishes a Consumer Price Index (CPI) just for seniors to ensure they receive a fair COLA.

SENIOR CENTER VISITS

My staff regularly visits senior centers throughout the 32nd Congressional District to discuss important issues and provide resources for seniors. Below is the schedule of when my staff will be in your neighborhood next.

- Hilda L Solis



Congresswoman Solis speaks to seniors about the price of prescription drugs during her visit to East Los Angeles Community Service Center.

AUGUST:

- 8/6 - West Covina Senior Center**
2501 E. Cortez, West Covina
10:00-11:00 a.m.
- 8/14 - South El Monte Senior Center**
1556 Central Ave., South El Monte, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- 8/15 - Duarte Senior Center**
1610 Huntington Dr., Duarte,
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- 8/21 - Azusa Senior Center**
740 N. Dalton Ave., Azusa,
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- 8/27 - Langley Senior Center**
400 W. Emerson Ave.,
Monterey Park, 11:00-11:30 a.m.
- 8/28 - Irwindale Senior Center**
16116 Arrow Highway,
Irwindale, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER:

- 9/3 - West Covina Senior Center**
- 9/11 - South El Monte Senior Center**
- 9/12 - Duarte Senior Center**
- 9/18 - Azusa Senior Center**
- 9/24 - Langley Senior Center**
- 9/25 - Irwindale Senior Center**

OCTOBER:

- 10/1 - West Covina Senior Center**
- 10/9 - South El Monte Senior Center**
- 10/10 - Duarte Senior Center**
- 10/16 - Azusa Senior Center**
- 10/22 - Langley Senior Center**
- 10/23 - Irwindale Senior Center**

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Telemarketing Calls Interrupting Your Dinner?

In February of 2003, Congresswoman Solis voted in favor of legislation to stop unwanted telemarketing calls by establishing a national do-not-call list. You can now register your home and cellular phone numbers on the national do-not-call list to block unwanted telemarketing phone calls. To register for this free service, please call **(888) 382-1222** from the phone number you would like on the registry, or visit www.donotcall.gov online.

Seeking Assistance for Affordable Housing?

The Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program creates more housing specially designed for seniors – including special services like transportation and cleaning assistance. To find out about affordable senior housing in our community, please call the Los Angeles Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office at **(213) 894-8000** and ask about Section 202 housing.

Congresswoman Solis' Offices Are Here to Serve You

El Monte

4401 Santa Anita Ave., Suite 211
El Monte, CA 91731
(626) 448-1271
(626) 448-8062 Fax

East Los Angeles

4716 César Chávez Ave., Bldg. A
East Los Angeles, CA 90022
(323) 307-9904
(323) 307-9906 Fax

Washington, D.C.

1725 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5464
(202) 225-5467 Fax



M.C.
ECRWSS

SAVE THE DATE

**Senior Forum - August 14
Irwindale Senior Center, 16116 Arrow Highway**