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**State Senator**  
**Xxxxxx XXXXXXXXXXXXX**  
Senate Box 2030XX  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-30XX

*Or Current Resident*

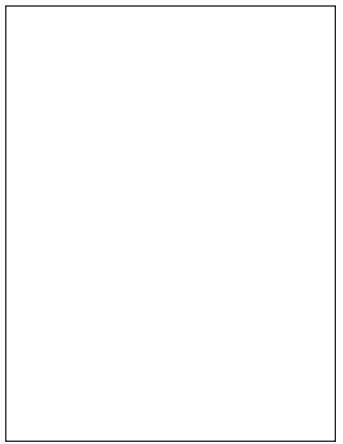


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# Legislative UPDATE

## ***Important Information About the New Medicare Drug Discount Card Program***

**From State Senator Xxxxxx XXXXXXXXXXXXX**



Dear Senior Citizen,

**A**s your state senator, I wanted to make you aware of some important information regarding the new Medicare Drug Discount Card program. Many seniors are currently receiving letters and other material from numerous Medicare-approved providers encouraging them to sign up and pay for the new drug discount card. This may cause some confusion, particularly for those who currently have a prescription drug card through Pennsylvania's PACE or PACENET programs. This mailer is designed to provide you with more information about the new Medicare Drug Discount Card, the benefits you are eligible for and where you can go for more information. I hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions, please call my district office – the numbers are listed on the back.

Sincerely,

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** *Be very careful when giving out your Social Security Number or other personal credit information. It is not advisable to provide this information over the phone or to strangers, unless you can verify that the person you are speaking with represents the company or group with whom you choose to do business.*

# PACE Recipients

- Many PACE recipients are currently receiving letters and information from numerous Medicare-approved drug discount card providers, encouraging them to sign up for their company's drug discount card. Since PACE recipients currently have prescription drug coverage and a card from the Commonwealth, this may cause some confusion.
- If you are single and your income is **\$12,569 or less**, or you are married and your income is **\$16,862 or less**, you are **eligible for the Medicare-approved drug discount card program** with a **\$600 credit towards your prescriptions**.
- A company called **First Health** has a special Medicare-approved drug discount card for these PACE recipients. **First Health** is the company that currently administers Pennsylvania's PACE program for the Department of Aging.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Aging has reached an agreement with **First Health** to **AUTOMATICALLY ENROLL** these PACE recipients who are eligible for the \$600 federal prescription drug credit in the **First Health** drug discount card program.
- **NO ACTION IS REQUIRED** for these PACE recipients to be enrolled in the **First Health** drug discount card program, which provides them with several important benefits that no other company can match:



1. The **First Health** Medicare-approved drug discount card will be free, because **Medicare** will cover **the annual enrollment fee for those who meet the lower income eligibility criteria** stated earlier.

2. During 2004 and 2005, all co-pays will be waived for PACE recipients with the **First Health** drug discount card until the federal \$600 prescription drug credit is exhausted.

3. PACE recipients will keep their PACE benefits

through 2005 without having to complete a renewal application.

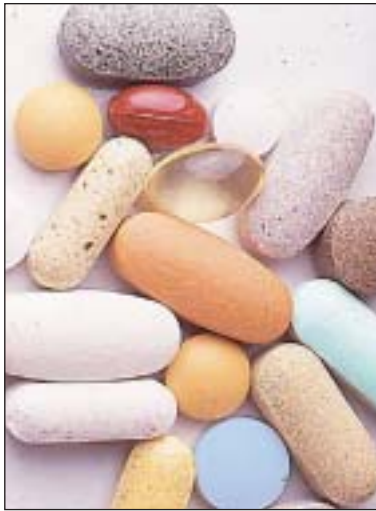
**This \$600 is a credit and will not be in the form of a check or refund directly to the recipient. It will offset the prescription drug costs incurred by PACE thereby contributing to the preservation of our PACE program in Pennsylvania.**

- **This transitional Medicare drug discount card program will be in effect starting June 1, 2004, and will last up to 22 months when the new drug benefit program, Medicare Part D, begins January 2006.** At that time, all people with Medicare coverage will have new prescription drug coverage options available to them.

**REGISTRATION IN THE FIRST HEALTH DRUG DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM ASSISTS THE PACE PROGRAM AND WILL NOT AFFECT A SENIOR'S PACE BENEFITS**

## Certain PACE & PACENET Recipients

- If your income exceeds \$12,569, but is less than \$23,500 for a single person or your income exceeds \$16,862, but is less than \$31,500 for a married couple, and you currently have a PACE or PACENET card, the Medicare-approved drug discount card will likely provide **NO** additional benefit to you.
- Your existing PACE and PACENET benefits are more generous than the federal program benefits currently available.



**There is no need to pay for any Medicare-approved drug discount card because a card will NOT likely provide you with any additional benefits.**

- The Medicare-approved drug discount card program is targeted to those who do not currently have any public or private prescription drug coverage.

In January 2006, further prescription drug benefits will be added to Medicare. At that time, all people with Medicare coverage will have new prescription drug coverage options available to them.

### *How Important is the New Medicare Prescription Drug Program to Pennsylvania?*

*The Associated Press – April 26, 2004*

“The \$600 Medicare credit will replace the money that PACE uses to pay for medications – drawn from state lottery revenues – and save the state program about \$150 million between June 2004 and March 31, 2006 on spending of \$1 billion,” said Tom Snedden, the Director of PACE for the Pennsylvania Department of Aging.

## *Important Numbers*

For more information on the PACE/PACENET Programs or to request an enrollment form, please call  
**1-800-225-7223.**

For information on the *First Health*/PACE Drug Discount Card, please call  
**1-800-774-9412.**

For information on the Medicare Drug Discount Card Program, please call  
**1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227).**

If you have Internet access, you can also obtain more information on the Medicare Drug Discount Card by clicking on  
**[www.aging.state.pa.us](http://www.aging.state.pa.us) or [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).**

