



## California Urological Association, Inc.

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### Position Statement on Reform of Medicare Part D

As the largest urological state organization with members that accept Medicare patients, we strongly **OPPOSE** spending cuts that negatively impact patient access to care and hamper innovation.

As legislators work to reduce the national budget deficit, it is crucial to consider the negative impact that drastic spending cuts and changes to the federal Medicare Program and Medicare Part D will have on patient care, medical innovation and the U.S. economy. Although mounting deficits are a real threat to U.S. economic viability, efforts to reduce our debt must **NOT** come at the expense of patients, especially our most vulnerable or cripple American medical innovation.

Medicare and Medicare Part D work for America and promote Medical Innovation. Part D should be protected because it provides seniors and disabled Americans with access to affordable medicines, thanks to competition among plans and strong cost controls. Free market competition in Part D drives drug costs down, and reforms that stifle that competition with inflate seniors' premiums, quash R&D and cut thousands of quality American jobs.

#### Key points that CUA considers critical in its support of Medicare Part D:

1. Medicare Part D is the rare government program that is consistently coming in under budget.
2. Medicare Part D is helping control government costs by reducing healthcare system spending.
3. Medicare Part D enjoys high satisfaction rates among beneficiaries and is improving the overall health of seniors by increasing access to medicines.

Some of the changes (cuts) to Medicare Part D that may include (but not limited to) freezing income threshold, raising co-insurance and increasing Medicare beneficiary cost sharing are valid concerns for Medicare beneficiaries and as a patient advocate, the CUA opposes such backward reforms.

These types of spending cuts will ultimately exacerbate the problem of rising healthcare costs in the long run. Improving payment, delivery, and preventative care services are the real keys to reducing healthcare costs.