

June 26, 2003- Sanchez Joins House Democrats in Fight to Save Medicare

June 26, 2003 SANCHEZ JOINS HOUSE DEMOCRATS IN FIGHT TO SAVE MEDICARE Democratic Representatives Continue To Fight for Affordable Health Care and Senior Citizens

WASHINGTON, D.C. – For years Democrats have been fighting for affordable and available Medicare prescription drug programs for all seniors and disabled beneficiaries. They have vigorously sought a healthcare plan that is reliable, offers meaningful, guaranteed benefits, and is available to all applicants through traditional Medicare programs.

Unfortunately, the House GOP Bill does not provide any stability for current or future beneficiaries of Medicare. This Republican solution, introduced to the House last week, will be the largest overhaul of the Medicare System ever. The bill provides no guarantee that it will be available to all seniors, it does not offer an affordable prescription drug plan, nor will it give seniors the option of obtaining their prescription drug coverage through traditional Medicare.

"We were asked to vote on a bill that would have the most dramatic impact on our existing Medicare system since its creation," said Congresswoman Sanchez. "How can we approve a bill we haven't even had time to review and whose analysis has not been presented. It would be irresponsible for me or anyone else to sign off on this bill that would affect so many seniors without thorough examination."

The 400+ page GOP Bill was handed to Democratic Members of Congress Thursday morning at 1 a.m., with Members gathering nine hours later to vote on it. The legislation will increase the costs for seniors by \$8 billion and goes even further toward privatizing Medicare than the legislation opposed by 199 Democrats last year.