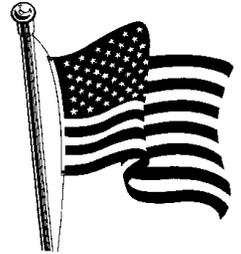


Congressman *Bill Pascrell, Jr.*

**WORKING
FOR YOU**



Eighth District, New Jersey

July, 2002

Dear Friend:

Our nation has many challenges to confront. A top priority must be to do right by our seniors, the generation of Americans who helped to build our country.

Put simply, there are too many in Washington who are content to pass budgets that do not prioritize the needs of our seniors. It is wrong for some to say Social Security and Medicare are critical when—at the same time—they are redirecting funding away from strengthening these vital programs.

We have an obligation to meet the needs of those who have been there for us time and time again.

This will be a large task. In New Jersey, too many seniors cannot afford their prescription drugs, too many struggle to find the right environment in which to retire, and too many of our trusted doctors and hospitals are being priced out of Medicare and Medicaid. Seniors have earned the right to rely upon those programs and they must be modernized. We must address these problems now.

I hope you will take a moment to read through this newsletter, and contact me if I can be of any assistance to you or your family.

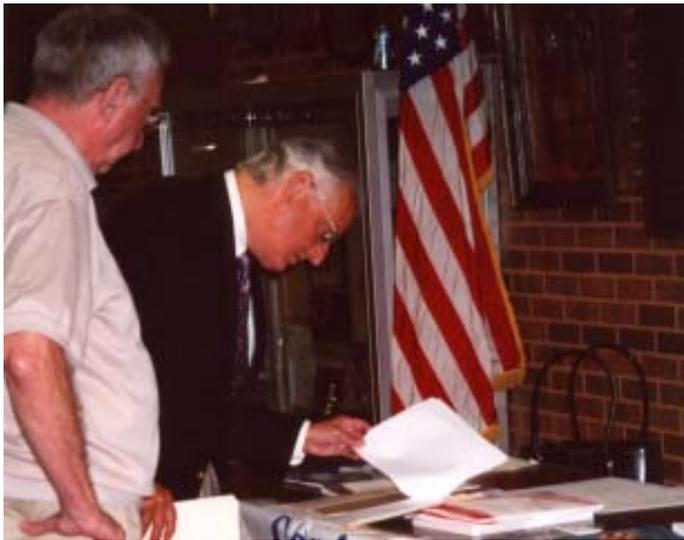
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bill Pascrell Jr'.

*Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress*



Congressman Pascrell recently visited the Belleville Senior Center. During his visit, he presented a flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol to the Belleville Disabled American Veterans.



Each month, Congressman Pascrell's Mobile Office Program brings the services of his office directly to communities throughout the Eighth District. These regularly scheduled office hours allow residents to receive assistance without having to travel to one of the Congressman's office locations. Here, the Congressman discusses a matter of concern at his Clifton mobile office.

HELPFUL LINKS

There are many government websites that offer helpful information. Here are just a few resources that you may find useful:

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/index.html>
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

<http://www.ssa.gov/>
The Official Website of the Social Security Administration

<http://www.medicare.gov/>
The Official U.S. Government Site for People with Medicare

<http://www.va.gov/>
Department of Veterans Affairs

<http://www.aoa.gov>
U.S. Administration on Aging

<http://www.nia.nih.gov>
National Institute on Aging

<http://www.hud.gov/groups/seniors.cfm>
Senior Citizens Page-Department of Housing and Urban Development

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE UNDER MEDICARE

I believe we must address right now the lack of adequate prescription drug coverage for seniors. Presently, there are 40 million Medicare beneficiaries and nearly one out of every three does not have prescription drug insurance. In fact, sixty percent of Medicare beneficiaries have coverage that is unreliable or inadequate.

I along with many of my House Democratic colleagues have put forth a plan to add a new "Part D" in Medicare that would provide voluntary prescription drug coverage for *all* Medicare beneficiaries beginning in 2005.

This plan will ensure that seniors have:

- **Access to every drug at an affordable cost**
- **Needed catastrophic coverage**
- **A program that is voluntary, reliable, and has a guaranteed benefit.**

Under this legislation, a beneficiary would pay a \$25 a month premium, a small annual deductible of \$100, and 20% co-insurance without limiting the choice of any drug prescribed by a beneficiary's doctor. No senior will pay more than \$2,000 out-of-pocket for prescription drugs. Medicare would pay the rest, ensuring that seniors always have coverage with no gaps.

Medicare has worked for nearly four decades, providing health care for seniors and keeping millions out of poverty. Now, it must be strengthened and modernized to include a prescription drug benefit. I am working hard to make that a reality.

SUPPORTING FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Under the “Older Americans Act of 2000,” Congress established the *National Family Caregiver Support Program*. It is the first federal program to reach out to family caregivers.

Eligible family members include those caring for older adults and grandparents of children under the age of 18 (including grandparents who are sole caregivers of grandchildren and those individuals who are affected by mental retardation or a developmental disability). The caregiver can receive:

- information about available services
- assistance in receiving those services
- individual counseling and help organizing support groups
- training to assist them in making decisions and solving problems
- respite care to enable them to be temporarily relieved from their caregiving responsibilities
- supplemental services, on a limited basis, to complement the care they provide

While this program is sorely needed, services are often limited.

To address this problem, several of my colleagues and I will soon introduce the “Lifespan Respite Care Act.” The bill will provide more relief to more caregivers by increasing access, expanding who is eligible, and improving the availability of services. This federal program has helped many families in New Jersey, and we need to allow more and more loving family members to participate.

For more information on this important program, you can log onto: www.aoa.gov/carenetwork.

NATURALLY OCCURRING RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Today, more than 14 million seniors live in what are commonly referred to as Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC). NORC communities provide seniors the type of support services they would otherwise receive in nursing homes or other high-cost institutions.

These services include preventative health, nutrition, transportation, home and personal care, and socialization program information. Last year, Congress directed the Administration on Aging (AoA) to establish demonstration projects for NORCs.

Several of my colleagues and I from New Jersey are working to secure a NORC demonstration project in the Garden State. We are seeking \$3 million in federal dollars to begin this important effort. Costs faced by those who retire after a lifetime of work are high enough. We want the federal government to try a new approach to see if we can enhance the quality of life for seniors in our state.



Congressman Pascrell meeting with a Glen Ridge resident to discuss the recent kickoff of the federally-funded Community Shuttle program.

UPCOMING EVENT

*Congressman Bill Pascrell . . .
Invites You To Attend*

Free Glaucoma Screening

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2002

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**The John Renna House
Community Room
10 Gaston Street
West Orange, New Jersey**

Congressman Pascrell will be on hand and will discuss health related legislation.

VISIT MY WEBSITE

I hope you will take a moment to visit my official website. There you will find information about my legislative priorities, recent announcements, upcoming events, photographs, and links to important government resources. You will also learn of services my office can provide to you and your family. These include assisting you in working with federal agencies, visiting our mobile office, touring our nation's capital, applying for internships, and requesting a flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol. You can also contact me by sending an email.

The site is located at www.pascrell.house.gov.

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Official Business

Bill Pascrell Jr.
M.C.

Presorted Standard
W/S Carrier Route