

Today, U.S. Rep. John Campbell (R-Calif.), chairman of the Republican Study Committee's Budget and Spending Taskforce issued the following statement regarding H.R. 4, the Democratic legislation to create inefficient price controls in the Medicare drug program: "Once again the new Democratic leaders... Today, U.S. Rep. John Campbell (R-Calif.), chairman of the Republican Study Committee's Budget and Spending Taskforce issued the following statement regarding H.R. 4, the Democratic legislation to create inefficient price controls in the Medicare drug program:

"Once again the new Democratic leadership has gone out of its way to put the expansion of the government's role in our lives ahead of the interests of individuals. The effective market features in the Medicare Part D program are working, yet the Democrats are trying to replace them with inefficient government price controls.

"This Democratic proposal is nothing more than a solution that won't work to a problem that doesn't exist.

"In its first year, the benefit cost taxpayer \$13 billion less than projected and monthly premiums are around \$24, which is significantly less than the \$37 originally projected. Further these premiums are expected to continue to decrease under the current system. A bureaucratic entity like the federal government doesn't have the ability to effectively negotiate prices. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the government would be unlikely to negotiate prices lower than private sector purchasers, and the proposed governmental interference could lead to a significant decrease in drug access for seniors.

"This debate is not about lower drug prices; it is an attempt to take control of health care away from patients and turn it over to the government."