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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NON-PROFIT HEALTHCARE GROUPS ASK WI CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO URGE SUPER COMMITTEE TO AVOID BEING PENNYWISE AND POUND FOOLISH REGARDING MEDICARE PART D

Groups claim any attempt to cut successful program will hurt seniors and others in need statewide

MADISON – A group of five Wisconsin non-profit healthcare groups today called on the Wisconsin Congressional delegation to work hard to protect the Medicare Part D benefit because it helps reduce costs and protects those most vulnerable suffering from health care problems statewide.

“We all realize that Congress and the Super Committee are charged with cutting \$1.2 trillion out of the nation’s budget, but Medicare Part D is not the place to do it. We’re asking Wisconsin’s Congressional representatives to let the committee know how we feel,” said Rob Gundermann, a spokesperson for the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin. “Medicare Part D is successful and more than 84 percent of seniors say they’re satisfied with the program. If cuts are made, that will limit access to medical care and treatment for many in Wisconsin, which will not save money over the long term.”

The [Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin](#) joined with the [Brain Injury Association of Wisconsin](#), [American Liver Foundation – Great Lakes Chapter](#), [National Lung Cancer Partnership](#) and [The Epilepsy Foundation Southern Wisconsin](#) in sending a letter to all of Wisconsin’s Congressional representatives asking them to recognize and preserve the Medicare Part D program. According to the non-profit groups, Medicare Part D is working and saving money for the beneficiaries and the government.

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Among the additional facts noted in the letter:

- Improved access and adherence to medicine created by Medicare Part D is saving \$1,200 per year in hospital, nursing home and other costs for each senior who previously lacked prescription drug coverage
- Medicare Part D's cost to the public is 46 percent less than initially estimated for its first decade
- Medicare Part D is saving an estimated \$12 billion each year.

Seniors continue to pay less out-of-pocket for prescriptions under Medicare Part D, according to the letter which indicates overall savings of up to 15 percent per recipient. Under the plans, Wisconsin seniors are currently paying around \$14.80 per month for the Medicare Part D benefits.

While the groups are urging the Wisconsin members of Congress to voice their concerns to the Super Committee, they're also encouraging others to let their voices be heard. To find your local member of Congress and send him or her a letter or e-mail, please visit

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>.

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