



**Statement by Mary R. Grealy
Chairman, Medicare Today and President, Healthcare Leadership Council**

The Medicare Today coalition applauds the commitment of the nation's pharmaceutical companies to work with the Administration and Congress in closing the coverage gap in the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit. This commitment to support legislation and provide funding makes the idea of closing the so-called "doughnut hole" an achievable reality.

The Part D benefit has made a profound difference in the lives of America's seniors, as exemplified by its 84 percent approval rating. Competition among private plans has elevated value and kept prices low. Beneficiaries are saving an average of \$1,200 per year on their medications. The coverage gap has been a flaw in an otherwise highly successful program. Thanks to the action of the pharmaceutical industry, an outstanding program is on the verge of becoming even better.