AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

UPDATED - HOW THE HEALTH CARE LAW BENEFITS SENIORS

- **Reduces prescription drug costs for seniors.** More than 5.1 million seniors in the Medicare Part D 'donut hole' coverage gap have saved over $3.2 billion on prescription drugs because of the new health care law, with an average savings of $635 per senior. Savings for seniors include a one-time $250 rebate check to seniors in the 'donut hole' in 2010 and a 50 percent discount on brand-name drugs in the 'donut hole' beginning in January 2011. The health care law also completely closes the 'donut hole' by 2020. Between now and 2020, the average senior in the 'donut hole' will save more than $10,000 on their drug costs.

- **Provides free Medicare coverage of key preventive services,** such as mammograms and colonoscopies. 32.5 million seniors – 25.7 million in traditional Medicare and 6.8 million in Medicare Advantage – have already received one or more free preventive services.

- **Provides a free Annual Wellness Visit under Medicare**, for the first time. 2.3 million seniors in traditional Medicare have already taken advantage of this new Medicare benefit.

- **Strengthens Medicare and extends the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by 8 years – from 2016 to 2024.** The law's reforms strengthen solvency by squeezing waste out of the system and making it more efficient, without reducing benefits.

- **Provides new tools to crack down on fraud in Medicare,** and in FY 2011, a joint anti-Medicare fraud task force of HHS and the Department of Justice recovered more than $4.1 billion in fraudulent Medicare payment on behalf of taxpayers – the second year in a row recovery efforts reached this unprecedented level.

- **Helps seniors remain at home and stay out of nursing homes,** with the new Community First Choice Option, allowing states to offer home-based services to disabled individuals through Medicaid rather than institutional care.

- **Provides nursing home residents with more protections from abuse** and makes more information available about nursing homes so seniors are better informed.