

NEW MEDICARE BILL: FACT VS. MYTH

CLAIM: "Some older Americans spend much of their Social Security checks just on their medications. Some cut down on the dosage to make a bottle of pills last longer. Elderly Americans should not have to live with those kinds of fears and hard choices. This new law will ease the burden on seniors and will give them the extra help they need." [George W. Bush 12/08/03]

FACT: "Under the new plan, seniors in the middle income quintile will pay an average of \$1,650 a year in out-of-pocket expenses for prescription drugs in 2006. **This figure is nearly 60 percent more than they paid in 2000, even after adjusting for inflation.** Expenses are projected to continue to rise so that by 2013 middle-income seniors will be paying more than two and a half times as much for prescription drugs (adjusting for inflation) as they did in 2000." [CEPR Report, 12/04/03]

