AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HOW THE HEALTH CARE LAW BENEFITS SENIORS AND IMPROVES MEDICARE

- **Reduces prescription drug costs for seniors.** Since the health care law was enacted, more than 6.6 million seniors in the Medicare Part D 'donut hole' coverage gap have saved over $7 billion on prescription drugs, or an average savings of $1,061 per senior. The health care law completely closes the donut hole by 2020. It is estimated that seniors in the 'donut hole' will save an average of over $18,000 on their Rx drugs from the law's enactment through 2022.

- **Provides free Medicare coverage of key preventive services,** such as mammograms and colonoscopies. Before reform, some services could have a co-pay as high as $160. In 2012, 34.1 million seniors received one or more free preventive services. So far, in 2013, 16.5 million seniors have already received one or more of these free services.

- **Provides a free Annual Wellness Visit under Medicare.** More than 4.4 million seniors have already had a free Annual Wellness Visit under Medicare.

- **Provides additional savings for seniors, including slower premium growth and a lower deductible.** Premiums for Medicare Part B have gone up an average of less than 2 percent a year over the last five years. In addition, the average premium for Medicare Advantage enrollees in 2013 is actually 10 percent lower than in 2010. Also, the Medicare Part B deductible is $15 lower in 2013 than the deductible in 2011.

- **Strengthens Medicare and extends the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by nearly a decade.** The law's reforms strengthen solvency by squeezing waste out of the system and making it more efficient, without reducing benefits.

- **Provides new tools and enhanced authority to crack down on fraud in Medicare,** and, over the last four years, a joint anti-Medicare fraud task force of HHS and the Department of Justice has recovered nearly $15 billion in fraudulent Medicare payments on behalf of taxpayers, doubling the amount recovered over the four years prior – and the anti-fraud crackdown continues.