



UNITED STATES SENATOR · MICHIGAN
DEBBIE STABENOW
PRESS RELEASE



United States Senate · Washington D.C. 20510-2204 · (202) 224-4822

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2002

Contact: Dave Lemmon, Shanna Singh
Phone: 202-224-4822

**U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow Joins Healthcare Consumer Groups in
Kicking off Online Petition for Fair Prescription Drug Prices**

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) today joined a coalition of leading healthcare consumer groups in announcing the launch of a website, www.fairdrugprices.org, that will give individuals and businesses the opportunity to voice their concerns about high prescription drug prices. The website is part of an effort by a coalition of the groups, including Families USA, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Retirees, the AFL-CIO, the Center for Medicare Advocacy, the American Association for People with Disabilities and others that are working to lower prescription prices and provide prescription drug coverage under Medicare.

“Individuals and businesses who are concerned about skyrocketing prescription drug prices need a way to assure that their voices are heard as loudly as those of the pharmaceutical industry, which have more than six lobbyists for each U.S. Senator” said Stabenow. “This website will allow concerned citizens across the country to share stories of their prescription drug struggles and send a message to Congress that they need relief now. I am proud to join these leaders in announcing the launch of www.fairdrugprices.org, the people’s voice in the fight to lower prescription prices.”

Participation in the website is expected to become particularly relevant as debate heats up in the Senate over a Medicare prescription drug benefit. Stabenow and a number of her Senate colleagues have been working hard to lower prices and provide a Medicare prescription drug benefit. From 2000 to 2001, prescription drug prices rose 17 percent, in part due to dramatic increases in prescription drug advertising and marketing.

“We all realize that, when prescription drugs are unaffordable, they are unavailable to those who need them most. As coordinator of the Senate Prescription Drug Task Force, my goal is twofold: I want to do all I can to lower prescription drug prices. I am also committed to creating a comprehensive prescription drug benefit under Medicare. Only when we have achieved both of these goals will we truly have addressed the needs of American citizens,” said Stabenow.

Created by a wide range of consumer groups, www.fairdrugprices.org offers concerned citizens the opportunity to send a letter to their elected officials, share their experiences with high prescription drug prices and sign an online petition that will be sent to Congress.