
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: SMITH
SUBJECT: RURAL PROVISION COMPARISON IN MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILLS
DATE: 7/7/03
CC: RENICK, LEE ANN, KINNEY, BOYD, SEWELL

Attached is a comparison of the Senate and House Medicare Drug Bills before Congress. Debate will begin today in conference. Both bills have rural provisions that would give much needed relief to our rural hospitals and generate dollars into these communities.

I have attached information from the National Rural Health Association web site that has several key points that could be used in comments when you speak about the negative impact of the BBA. Lee Ann agrees that this may be a good opportunity to get you some positive press and shows you fighting for the whole state, including rural hospitals. It would also help educate the public about how much of the local economy depends on health care dollars.

FYI Ronnie Shows and Michael Nester are in Washington this week to urge our congressmen to support the rural provisions in the house version. Joey said he hired Ronnie Shows last week and Michael Nester has worked for him for some time. I gave them Fred's number and let Fred know that they may look him up to assist and keep an eye on the legislation.

Finally, you may want to send a letter or call our Congressmen to urge them to support legislation to bring relief to our rural hospitals. If you prefer to send a letter, please let me know and I'll draft a letter for your signature. Fred said that NGA does not usually weigh in on "rural" issues because it's not a priority for all governors.

Would you like for me to draft a letter?

YES _____

NO _____