

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 24, 2004

The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Secretary:

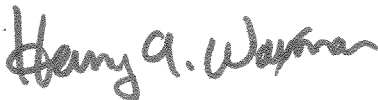
We are concerned about recent reports that indicate that a large campaign contributor and CEO of a pharmaceutical benefits management company, David Halbert, may have helped write provisions of the recent Medicare law that govern the prescription drug card program. We are writing you with questions about the influence, if any, of Mr. Halbert on the Medicare law.

David Halbert is the CEO of AdvancePCS, a pharmaceutical benefit manager company that stands to make a windfall off of the recently enacted legislation. According to the Center for American Progress, Halbert, who is a longtime friend of President Bush and contributor to several of Bush's campaigns, helped to create the portion of the Medicare bill that allows seniors to buy drug discount cards that they can use to purchase prescription drugs from May of 2004 until 2006, when these drugs will begin to be covered by Medicare.¹

In order to determine if Mr. Halbert or AdvancePCS had a role in the development of this provision, we request copies of all communications (whether written, electronic, or oral) between (1) Mr. Halbert or any employee or representative of AdvancePCS and (2) you, any employee of HHS or of any of its agencies, or any other employee of the executive branch from January 2001 to the present.

Please provide the requested documents by March 9, 2004. If you have any questions about this request, please call Sarah Despres on the minority staff of the Committee on Government Reform at (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Government Reform



Sherrod Brown
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy and Commerce

¹ Center for American Progress, *The Halliburton of Medicare?* Progress Report (Dec. 11, 2003) (online at www.americanprogress.org).