

## Public Officials in Support of the Together Rx Access™ Card

OFFICIAL	STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
<b>Bush Administration</b>	
<p><b>Sec. Tommy G. Thompson</b> HHS Secretary</p>	<p>"The Together Rx Access™ Card will make life-saving and life-enhancing prescription medicines more affordable for millions of uninsured patients. Solving the complex issue of helping the uninsured in this country gain access to healthcare must take a united effort by all sectors of society, and I commend these companies for stepping forward to be part of the solution. The Together Rx Access™ Card is a common-sense, pragmatic way to give the uninsured access to prescription medicines."</p>
<p><b>U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona</b></p>	<p>"It is critical that the public health infrastructure continues to protect and promote the health of all Americans. By providing access to these prescription and generic drugs that we know are safe and effective to millions of Americans, we ensure a healthier nation.</p> <p>We need to continue working together to close the health gap that affects so many Americans. The step that these companies have taken with the Together Rx Card will help us bridge that gap for 36 million people who are struggling to make ends meet while filling their prescription drug needs.</p> <p>This will especially help the children who need prescription drugs to combat illness. Uninsured children are much more likely than children with insurance to go untreated for common illnesses like asthma, ear infections and sore throats. As the Office of the Surgeon General focuses on 2005 as the Year of the Healthy Child, I commend these ten companies for giving hope to kids across the country so that they can live healthier, more productive lives."</p>
<b>U.S. Senate</b>	

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<b>Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)</b>	“Healthcare is important to all Americans and all Montanans, and remains one of my top priorities. Whether it’s improving access to prescription drugs, keeping rural healthcare facilities open or expanding health insurance coverage, I’m committed to ensuring access to quality, affordable healthcare. I applaud the companies who have come together to offer the Together Rx Access™ Card. They have taken this issue to heart and are offering meaningful savings on essential medicines for the uninsured and underinsured.”
<b>Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC)</b>	“With the commitment of industry, government and individuals, we can make headway in addressing the crisis faced by the uninsured, and provide affordable, quality healthcare to our citizens. I am extremely encouraged by today’s important announcement, and commend the Together Rx Access™ Card members for taking a critical first step forward in addressing the needs of our uninsured citizens.”
<b>Sen. Thomas Carper (D-DE)</b>	“It’s no secret that many Americans without health coverage put off seeking care. When people don’t see the doctor because they are afraid of the costs, something is wrong with our healthcare system and we need to find creative solutions to fix it. Together Rx Access™ is a program that helps provide prescription drugs to people who need them, which should in turn encourage people to go the doctor and get the care they need.”
<b>Sen. Jon Corzine (D-NJ)</b>	“Working families make up 80 percent of the uninsured in our country. In addition to lacking access to basic healthcare services, these families lack access to prescription drug coverage. Together Rx Access™ takes a critical step toward providing the uninsured with affordable access to prescription medications. I commend these pharmaceutical companies, many of which are based in New Jersey, for their corporate responsibility.”

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<b>Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY)</b>	"I applaud the efforts of the private sector to help uninsured Americans in Wyoming and around the country. This is one of those efforts. It is vital that every sector of society work together to help solve the very serious problem of the uninsured. Government does not have all the answers, and it can't solve all the needs of our citizens on its own. The private sector plays an important leadership role in improving access to healthcare for the citizens of our country."
<b>Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)</b>	"Millions of uninsured Americans are unable to afford drugs they need. The Together Rx Card will help bring costs down in order to provide access for some of our most vulnerable individuals and families. As we grapple with how best to solve the problem of the uninsured, we welcome initiatives from the private sector to help. I applaud the member companies for their efforts."
<b>Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT)</b>	"The Together Rx Access™ Card program is a terrific example of American companies recognizing a serious need within their communities and acting to meet that need with compassion. These cards will provide instant and meaningful relief from prescription drug costs for potentially millions of Americans. I've been working hard to find ways to improve access to healthcare for uninsured Americans, so it is sure gratifying to see our pharmaceutical companies helping to meet that need head on, of their own initiative. I congratulate the companies participating in the Together Rx Access™ program."
<b>Sen. Jim Jeffords (I-VT)</b>	"Medicines today play a vital role in our efforts to prevent and treat chronic diseases, but unfortunately far too many people in this country go without them because they lack the insurance coverage that helps make these medicines affordable. Any effort to increase access to these medicines is laudable and I commend the companies sponsoring the Together Rx Access™ Card for being a part of the solution to this national problem."

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<b>Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA)</b>	"The Together Rx Access™ drug card will give millions of uninsured Americans much-needed savings they deserve on prescription drugs. I commend the coalition and its member companies — Abbott Laboratories, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Novartis, Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, Pfizer, Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Takeda Pharmaceuticals and TAP Pharmaceuticals — for this significant step to relieve the plight of millions of the nation's uninsured."
<b>Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)</b>	"The new Together Rx Access™ Card program is a fine example of corporate citizenship, and I am proud that many of the founding member companies have such strong ties to New Jersey. Under the new Together Rx Access™ Card program, uninsured individuals and families will benefit from significant savings on necessary and life-enhancing drugs. With the commitment of industry, government and individuals, we can make headway in addressing the crisis faced by the underinsured and the uninsured, and provide affordable, quality healthcare to our citizens."
<b>Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA)</b>	"One of my top legislative priorities is ensuring that all Pennsylvanians have access to quality, affordable and safe healthcare. The Together Rx Access™ Card will help make quality, life-saving prescription drugs affordable not only to citizens in Pennsylvania, but also to millions of low-income Americans."
<b>Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY)</b>	"There are nearly 3 million New Yorkers who have no healthcare coverage. This discount prescription drug program will help a significant number of uninsured New Yorkers purchase the medicines they need for their families. Until the Federal and State governments can do more to provide health insurance and low-cost drugs to more Americans, these private programs are a much-needed service."
<b>U.S. House of Representatives</b>	

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OFFICIAL	STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
<p><b>Rep. Roy Blunt (R-MO)</b> House Majority Whip</p>	<p>"When private companies work together for the good of the nation, the result is the best of American business. I am proud to support efforts such as Together Rx Access™ with the aim of helping countless low-income, uninsured Americans afford the prescription medicines they need."</p>
<p><b>Rep. John Boehner (R-OH)</b></p>	<p>"As medical technology advances, prescription drugs have become more important than ever in the maintenance of healthy and productive lives. Helping the uninsured gain access to quality, affordable healthcare is a top priority of mine. I strongly commend the companies that have joined together to develop the Together Rx Access™ Card for taking the initiative to provide patients without insurance improved access to prescription medicines."</p>
<p><b>Rep. Henry Bonilla (R-TX)</b> Chair, Congressional Hispanic Conference</p>	<p>"Texas has the unenviable distinction of having the most uninsured residents, per capita, of any state in the union. The ramifications of such large numbers of uninsured Americans sends shock waves throughout the healthcare system. All segments of society must work together to help Americans who are uninsured or underinsured gain access to treatment. I commend Together Rx Access™ and its member companies for helping families afford the life-saving drugs they need. This card will be of tremendous help in Texas and throughout the United States."</p>
<p><b>Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD)</b> Former Chair, Congressional Black Caucus</p>	<p>"With approximately 45 million people in the United States lacking health insurance, covering all uninsured Americans is a top priority of the Congressional Black Caucus. The Together Rx Access™ Card offers qualified families immediate help in solving the widespread problem of healthcare access. It is my hope that the Access Card will be an easy and efficient way for families to receive immediate assistance from potentially life-saving prescription drugs."</p>

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<b>Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY)</b>	"People across the country without prescription drug insurance will benefit greatly from the Together Rx Access™ discount card. While Congress must address the broader issue of providing health coverage for the uninsured, Together Rx Access™ is a good program that will immediately lessen the financial burden on people and families who are today struggling to pay for life-saving medicines."
<b>Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-NJ)</b>	"Having a program for the uninsured is essential. With over 15 percent of New Jersey residents uninsured, I applaud the Together Rx Access™ program and commend the pharmaceutical member companies for coming together to provide access to medications for the growing number of the nation's uninsured who need them."
<b>Rep. Wally Herger (R-CA)</b>	"The lack of health insurance for 45 million Americans is a national crisis, with far-reaching consequences that we, as a nation, are only beginning to grasp. This prescription savings program for the uninsured is the kind of innovative, cooperative effort that we need to see more of, and I congratulate the companies sponsoring the Together Rx Access™ Card for taking a giant step forward in addressing this serious issue."
<b>Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)</b> House Minority Whip	"For tens of millions of Americans, the hardship of suffering from an illness or a chronic disease is compounded by the stress of not having insurance to pay for critical medications. I am pleased these companies are working to address this issue by offering a program designed to help ease the multiple burdens of the uninsured."
<b>Rep. Robert Menendez (D-NJ)</b>	"Many hard-working American families desperately need health coverage but can't afford it. In New Jersey, nearly 1.2 million Americans currently do not have health insurance coverage, so they aren't getting the care and medicines they need to stay healthy. I applaud Together Rx Access™ Card, and its sponsor companies for joining forces to begin to address this growing need among our nation's low-income population."

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<b>Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL)</b>	"All Americans should have guaranteed healthcare coverage and access to affordable prescription drugs. However, until this goal is met, it is important that uninsured Americans take advantage of opportunities such as the one provided by the Together Rx Access™ Card. I commend the drug manufacturers for teaming up and creating a drug discount program that will complement existing discount programs such as Illinois's I-Save Rx Program and the federal 340B Discount Drug program. I applaud the participating companies for their effort to relieve some of the financial hardship that uninsured working class families face when purchasing life-saving prescription drugs."
<b>Rep. Ted Strickland (D-OH)</b>	"I am pleased to see these companies taking the initial step to address the prescription drug needs of lower-income uninsured Americans through the Together Rx Access™ Card. I am hopeful this creative approach will provide thousands of uninsured patients across the country with meaningful, health-preserving and in some cases life-saving access to the medications they need. Now, Congress must do its part to ensure affordable and accessible healthcare to all Americans."
<b>Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH)</b>	"The Together Rx Access™ Card gives America's uninsured and underinsured citizens immediate access to prescription drug savings. While we strive to resolve the larger issue of health coverage for the uninsured, I applaud these companies for taking the first step forward in alleviating the problem for those most in need. I sincerely hope that the underserved communities in Ohio, and across the nation, will take advantage of this great opportunity."

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<b>U.S. Governors</b>	
<b>Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm (D-MI)</b>	“Providing access to prescription drugs for uninsured Americans is critically important across the country. Here in Michigan, we have already implemented MIRx, a prescription drug discount card which allows uninsured and underinsured Michigan residents to get their prescription medication for less money at participating pharmacies. I commend the companies responsible for the Together Rx Access™ Card for providing another valuable savings option to our residents – a program that also can direct individuals to various resources for help on obtaining coverage or products.”
<b>Gov. Mike Huckabee (R-AR)</b>	"The Together Rx Access™ Card shows how the private sector can work with those of us in government to ensure better healthcare for Americans. The many Americans who lack health insurance and aren't eligible for Medicare will now have a free, easy-to-use card that allows them to save large amounts on prescription products. I thank the pharmaceutical companies for their leadership on this issue. It's another example of the fact that all the answers don't rest with government."
<b>Gov. Bill Owens (R-CO)</b>	"Part of every citizen's peace of mind is the ability to maintain good health and know that they and their loved ones have access to the medicines they may need. We have worked hard in Colorado to expand healthcare coverage to hard-working, low-income residents, but more must still be done. The Together Rx Access™ Card is an important and timely program that will make prescription drugs affordable to low-income Coloradans through significant discounts. I applaud the companies that have come together to offer this new card and provide assistance to thousands of Coloradans."
<b>Other Officials</b>	



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OFFICIAL	STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
<b>National Black Caucus of State Legislators</b>	"Too many working Americans have difficulty providing prescription drugs for their families and more importantly, for their children. NBCSL applauds the coalition that came together to create the Together Rx Access™ Card. NBCSL extends its support and will work to ensure that the millions of eligible constituents we serve are made aware of the program and enroll."
<b>North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Jim Poolman</b>	"I couldn't be more pleased about the expansion of the Together Rx program. Now, more than ever those that are in need will get necessary help. More and more employers are cutting back on prescription drug benefits in their health insurance plans. The expansion of this program comes at a perfect time."
<b>Wisconsin State Rep. Curt Gielow (R)</b>	"The Together Rx Access™ Card program is a great private-sector effort to meet a public need. The same innovation that helped create these drugs can be our best tool to help get these drugs, affordably, to Americans who need them. Together Rx has great potential to help those who need it most."
<b>Wisconsin State Rep. Steve Wieckert (R)</b>	"The Together Rx prescription drug plan for the uninsured will offer many Wisconsin residents who do not have insurance substantial savings on lifesaving medications they need. The Together Rx program is to be commended for making prescription drugs more affordable to those lacking healthcare coverage."
<b>Indiana State Rep. Michael B. Murphy (R)</b>	"I am pleased to support the Together Rx Access™ Card Prescription Savings Program. This program serves a currently unmet need, that of providing uninsured Hoosiers under the age of 65 with savings on their prescription drugs. Initiatives such as this can only move the state of Indiana one step closer to closing the gap in healthcare coverage."