



## **In Iowa's Interest:**

### **Seniors See More Affordable Health Care Under New Reform Law**

*by Senator Tom Harkin*

Improving access to quality, affordable health care is one of the primary missions of the new health reform law – particularly for seniors and those living with disabilities that are on Medicare. New data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services shows that mission is becoming a reality under two Affordable Care Act provisions: closing the Medicare Part D “donut hole” coverage gap and free preventative services for beneficiaries.

In Iowa, some 12,000 Medicare beneficiaries have received a 50 percent discount for drugs purchased in the “donut hole” this year, saving them over \$6.7 million. An additional 13,000 Medicare beneficiaries took advantage of free preventative services – including an annual wellness visit – at no cost to them. Many of these services will help prevent chronic diseases that can cost Medicare billions of dollars to treat.

The Affordable Care Act improves Medicare for current and future beneficiaries, making vital investments in health care quality and prevention. The more Iowans learn of the benefits of this new law, the more they will realize how important it is to their health and wellness.

For more information on the Affordable Care Act please visit <http://harkin.senate.gov/> or <http://www.healthcare.gov/>. To learn about Medicare's *Share the News. Share the Health!* prevention campaign, go to <http://www.medicare.gov/share-the-health/> or call 1-800-MEDICARE.