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WASHINGTON -- This afternoon **Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01)** urged senior citizens and eligible residents to take advantage of the Medicare open-enrollment period before it closes tomorrow night at midnight.

“Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, Medicare beneficiaries throughout Connecticut have increased access to preventive care visits and are paying less for prescription drugs,” Congressman Larson said. “Since the beginning of this open-enrollment period many beneficiaries have taken advantage of the opportunity to review their options and I urge those who have not yet explored their options to do so before the period closes.”

During the open-enrollment period Medicare beneficiaries will be able to search through plans for the 2012 year, with the highest rated plans clearly identified by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with a gold star.

As of the end of October, CMS estimated that 2.65 million Americans had saved more than \$1.5 billion on prescription drugs thanks to the Affordable Care Act, – an average of \$569 per beneficiary.

Additionally, CMS has estimated that as of the end of last month, 24.2 million Americans with original Medicare had taken advantage of another Affordable Care Act provision that allows beneficiaries to access free preventive care visits.

To search for a Medicare plan, beneficiaries should visit www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan .

Additional resources that may be helpful are listed below.

- www.Medicare.gov – Offers information on various plans and enrollment steps as well

as various other frequently asked questions about the program.

- 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-2477) – A toll-free number to call to get information on Medicare.
- <http://www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/10050.pdf> - A downloadable copy of the 2012 Medicare handbook.

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