

**An Act Restoring a Prescription Drug Safety Net for Seniors and the Disabled – SD
1439**

Judith Deutsch, LWVMA Health Care Specialist

The League of Women Voters urges you to support “An Act Restoring a Prescription Drug Safety Net for Seniors and the Disabled” – SD 1439.

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Mark Montigny

Purpose of the Bill: To restore the provision under Medicare Part D to an annual, one-time 30-day supply of needed medications when the pharmacy is unable to bill Medicare Part D at the time prescriptions are presented. In addition, the bill provides for a free one-time 72-hour supply of medications when the 30-supply has been utilized. These provisions will give members of the Part-D plan time to sort out problems they encounter when seeking their medications.

Talking points:

- Chapter 175 of the Acts of 2005 provided for a Medical Part D Safety Net, which expired on 12/31/2006. Unfortunately, problems with the Medicare Part D program have persisted.
- Over 150 prescriptions were filled every day under the expired Medicare Part D Safety Net.
- Without this coverage, people are being forced to walk away from the pharmacy counter without prescribed medications, which, for most of these individuals, are prohibitively expensive to purchase out of pocket.