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**STATEMENT BY SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY ON BUSH MEDICARE SPEECH
TODAY**

Washington, D.C. – Today, Senator Edward M. Kennedy released the following statement on President Bush’s Medicare speech in Florida:

“The Bush Administration is about to make a bad Medicare drug program worse by imposing steep penalties on seniors who were unable to navigate through a tangle of confusing plans to sign up for a drug program in time to meet next week's arbitrary and punitive deadline. Seniors have faced long waits on the help line, received inaccurate information and have faced a myriad of other challenges since the program’s start. It’s time America’s seniors were put first before politics and drug company profits.”

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