EXHIBIT 3
DATE 3.31.05
SB 380

# AARP Montana

March 31, 2005

TO: Representative Jim Keane and Members of House Business and Labor Committee

FROM: Boyce Fowler, Volunteer Advocate, AARP Montana

RE: Support of SB 380

Mr. Chair and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee, my name is Boyce Fowler and I am here representing AARP Montana and it's 143,000 members in Montana.

We are here in support of SB 380 because it addresses an issue that will become more and more important as the number of discount cards on the market increase. AARP currently offers one of the many Medicare-approved discount drug cards to eligible Medicare beneficiaries, through its contract with United HealthCare Insurance Company. Since Medicare Modernization took effect, AARP has taken many steps to inform and educate potential Medicare beneficiaries regarding the new Medicare-approved discount drug program. We have hosted consumer outreach efforts and distributed educational materials and publications nationwide.

However, many of our members have expressed confusion due to the variety of discount drug cards available to them. We believe it is very important to enact legislation that would ensure the cards that are being offered are legitimate. Seniors are especially vulnerable to fraud, especially in the area of health care. Valid discount cards offer help to those who cannot afford insurance, but a fraudulent card can be a disaster for lower income seniors.

We encourage your support of SB 380 and thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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