Throughout the US and many other countries in the world healthcare has been a major problem. Differences in opinion, willingness to compromise, and just plain refusal to accept a healthcare plan has been a major problem. In the US, as costs of healthcare rise and new ailments are cropping up, our citizens are able to benefit from our many programs to assist with the daily cost of health care. To help combat these rising costs a prescription drug plan called Medicare Part D was created. As the debates rage on we are asked a very important question. Is Medicare Part D Drug Benefit Good Health Care?

Mark McClellan, an avid supporter of Medicare Part D stated many times throughout his writing that Medicare Part D has been more of a success than originally planned. John, who presented this case introduced several very interesting statistics, one of which really caught my attention. He stated that over 80% of people and companies enrolled in the Medicare part D plan are happy with their prescription drug plan. Another valid point was that the program is very efficient, costing taxpayers 35% less than originally expected. Yet another interesting facy mentioned is that many people are purchasing the generic alternatives to the prescription drugs. People are becoming more educated and making wiser choices which in turn is costing the program less than expected while still getting the same job done. That in my opinion far outweighs most detriments the program may bring. All of these positives really begin to stack up and would definitely have an impact on the opinions of even the most stubborn advocates to the program.

In opposition to the Medicare Part D plan, Jagadeesh Gokhale fought tooth and nail for the repeal of the benefit program in front of the Senate. Brandon Ellis represented Gokhale in the debate and mentioned several very strong arguments against the program. Ellis reverberated that Gokhale wrote of five major detriments to the program. Gokhale said that a government program will hinder the private sector of drug insurance companies, and in turn as the program grows, demand for the private companies will diminish. In addition to these issues, it was said that with government with government patients entering the market the private drug prices will go up, which in turn will cause the overall Medicare deficits to grow exponentially larger. The final argument brought the younger generations into play, stating that the program will cause younger citizens to lose sight of the importance of saving for Medicare after retirement, which is bad practice; this could arguably be a trivial negative side effect of the program. The five negatives mentioned throughout the debate may seem like a lot, but there is a theme throughout which shows one main problem with the program. It will affect the private market bringing it out of equilibrium, which definitely will have consequences of its own. Personally I wasn't as swayed by this view as many of these problems could not be avoided, such as the rise in price of medical costs.

Overall both Brandon and John argued their sides of the debate with passion and enthusiasm, but in the end only one side will prevail. In my humble opinion, I believe that the Medicare Part D program is a very good program and will succeed for many years to come. Aside from a handful of negative effects caused from the program, it has an overall positive affect. Many people cannot afford private prescription drug plans, and through this program people are making wise decisions and paying for generic drugs, which saves them, and the program money. I believe that the overall affect of the Medicare Part D program is positive and I will gladly support it.