

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HELP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ENZI, RANKING MEMBER KENNEDY WILL
SEEK BIPARTISAN APPROACH TO ENSURE DRUG SAFETY**

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, R-WY, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, and Senator Edward M. Kennedy, D-MA, Ranking Member of the HELP Committee, today jointly issued the following statement:

“It is critical that we maintain public confidence in the FDA’s ability to ensure that prescription drugs are safe and effective,” the Senators said. “The nation is looking to us to ensure that drugs approved for use by the FDA are safe when used as intended and do not pose an unreasonable risk to the public.”

“We are holding hearings this week as the first part of our comprehensive response to the public’s concerns about the FDA and drug safety. We believe we must learn the facts and fully understand how the FDA drug approval process is working before deciding how to react.

“We will not pre-determine our response. Overreacting could be as dangerous as doing nothing, so we must take extraordinary care to find the right approach. Once we understand what needs to be done, we will act through the Committee process in a bipartisan manner to ensure that we have the necessary reforms in place to protect the health of the American people.”