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HELP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ENZI, RANKING MEMBER KENNEDY  
POSTPONE CRAWFORD NOMINATION VOTE

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 announced that the Committee has postponed the Executive Session scheduled for today on the President's nomination of Dr. Lester Crawford as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

“We are postponing the scheduled vote on Dr. Crawford's nomination to provide more time to address issues that have been raised on both sides of the aisle. We also hope this postponement will provide an opportunity for the Committee to come together and focus on maintaining the FDA as an agency free from politics and focused on protecting and promoting the public health,” Enzi and Kennedy said.

Enzi added: “In my view, FDA's mission to protect the public health has never been more important. It is critical that the Senate confirm a qualified nominee in an atmosphere free from political agendas.”

Kennedy added: “I commend Chairman Enzi for his thoughtful decision to allow the committee greater time to consider some of the important issues before the FDA before we vote on Dr. Crawford's nomination. I hope that the Administration will take seriously the concerns raised in our committee. And I look forward to working with Chairman Enzi and the other members of our committee to address them.”