

*News from the*

**U.S. Senate Committee on  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions**

**Michael B. Enzi (Wyoming), Chairman**



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***ENZI COUNTERS DEMOCRATS, STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL  
ON S. 1955 CONCERNS***

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee) today responded to concerns expressed by Senate Democrats and state Attorneys General regarding the Enzi-Nelson Small Business Health Plan (SBHP) bill, S. 1955.

“I understand that some are concerned with the impact of this bill on insurance laws and consumer protections,” Enzi said. “However, I want to make clear that this bill will in no way impede on an individual’s right to sue a SBHP under federal law or an insurance company under state law. It preserves the role of the state as the primary regulator and licenser of insurance companies and plans.”

The Enzi-Nelson bill responds to criticisms of past Association Health Plan (AHP) legislation by preserving the role of the state in insurance regulation and law. Therefore, consumers would retain their right to file suit for violations of state law and regulations.

“This campaign of misinformation directed at the American public is deeply troubling,” Enzi said. “However, I am confident that when Americans understand the truth about this bill, they will support it in overwhelming numbers. I look forward to bringing S. 1955 to the floor, where a full and open debate will reveal the enormous upside of our bill.”

SBHPs are highly popular among the general public, enjoying broad, bipartisan support. A recent survey revealed that 93 percent of Republicans and 86 of Democrats support legislation to create SBHPs. However, as the bill heads to the floor of the Senate for debate, some critics with a vested interest in maintaining the status quo at the expense of the American worker have resorted to scare tactics to lower the bill's popularity.

One egregiously false accusation made by self-serving critics is that the bill would force victims of insurance fraud or abuse into federal, rather than state, courts. This is clearly and unequivocally not true, and despite inaccurate claims by the bill's opponents, several Supreme Court decisions have consistently that the states have the right to regulate the business of insurance.

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