

News from the

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

Michael B. Enzi (Wyoming), Chairman



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***HELP COMMITTEE APPROVES BIPARTISAN/BICAMERAL
APPROACH TO RYAN WHITE CARE ACT REAUTHORIZATION***

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today announced the passage of a bipartisan, bicameral approach to the reauthorization of the “Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resource Emergency Act” (RWCA).

“I am pleased that the HELP Committee passed a bill that will improve accountability for health outcomes, save lives through treatment, and better target funding so that persons with HIV and AIDS have access to high quality care,” Enzi said Wednesday. “We must always remember that the Ryan White Care Act is one of our nation’s signature examples of reaching out to those in need, therefore we must ensure that services and supports are available to all those in need, no matter where they live.”

“I commend the Committee’s Ranking Member, Senator Kennedy for his hard work on this vital legislation, as well as the commitment of Congressman Joe Barton (R-TX) and Congressman John Dingell (D-MI) to this issue,” Enzi said. “Together, we are working across party lines in both the Senate and the House, along with the White House, so that the Ryan White CARE Act funding can address the epidemic of today, not yesterday.”

The Ryan White CARE Act was initiated in 1990 to provide treatment and care for individuals suffering from HIV/AIDS who are in the greatest need of assistance. The legislation must be reauthorized every five years. The bill passed today is known as the “Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act,” S. 2823.

“While we have made significant progress in understanding and treating this disease, there is still much more to do to save lives through education and treatment to ensure equitable treatment for all Americans infected with HIV and AIDS,” Enzi said. “We must ensure those infected with HIV and living with AIDS continue to receive our support and our compassion,” Enzi added.

“This bill represents a truly bipartisan, bicameral effort and I look forward to having it signed into law this year.”

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