

*****PHOTO ADVISORY*****

HARKIN CHAIRS INAUGURAL HELP COMMITTEE MEETING

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Newly minted Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) presided over his first official meeting in this new capacity yesterday. During the Executive Session, the Committee unanimously reported out an extension of the Ryan White CARE Act, the most comprehensive legislation for the prevention and treatment of HIV and the AIDS virus, and approved three nominees to the Senate floor for confirmation.

“Some say that if the Armed Services Committee defends America, the HELP Committee defines America,” Harkin said at the start of the hearing. “The issues under our jurisdiction touch the daily lives of every American – from health care to education to retirement security. We have an enormous responsibility to our fellow citizens, and it is one I intend to deliver on.”

Harkin assumed the Chairmanship of the HELP Committee earlier this fall following the passing of the former Chairman, Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts.

“I am not replacing Ted Kennedy – because no one could replace Ted Kennedy,” Chairman Harkin said. “But I am succeeding him, and it is one of the highest honors of my life.”

Pictures of Chairman Harkin gaveling in the Executive Session can be found below.

<http://harkin.senate.gov/images/4ac4dce4574f8.jpg>

CAPTION:

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) calls to order the Senate HELP Committee during his first meeting as Chairman.