



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI SAYS HELP COMMITTEE APPROVES BILL TO RECOGNIZE  
ADDICTION AS A DISEASE***

**Washington, D.C.** –U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today said the HELP Committee approved a bill that will recognize addiction as a disease at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The “Recognizing Addiction as a Disease Act of 2007,” S. 1011, changes the name of the National Institute on Drug Abuse to the National Institute on Diseases of Addiction, and changes the name of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to the National Institute on Alcohol Disorders and Health.

“Science shows us the addiction to alcohol or any other drug is a disease,” Enzi said. “While the initial decision to use drugs is a choice, there comes a time when continued use turns on the addiction switch in the brain. That time can vary depending on factors ranging from genetics to environment to type of drug and frequency of use.

“Because of that and the continued stereotypes and challenges that are often barriers to people with addiction issues seeking treatment issues face I am proud to support this legislation. Although the names of the Institutes will change, their mission – preventing and treating drug and alcohol addiction – will remain the same.”

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