



For Immediate Release

Contact: Craig Orfield
(202) 224-6770

Friday, April 24, 2009

***ENZI: RECONCILIATION CLOSES THE DOOR
ON GOOD, BIPARTISAN HEALTH CARE REFORM***

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today issued the following statement in response to reports that Democrats may misuse budget reconciliation to bypass a full, fair legislative process on health care reform:

“For lasting, comprehensive health care reform to work and for Americans to really have confidence in the plan, we need 75 or 80 Senators supporting the plan – not just 51. Health care reform won’t just affect the uninsured, or those on Medicare and Medicaid – it will affect every American, every company, and every health care provider.

“If health care reform is done wrong, millions of Americans will lose the health care coverage they have now, and be forced onto government-run, taxpayer-funded programs. This will break the President’s promise that Americans who like the coverage they have can keep it.

“There has never been a bill with so many moving parts and with life-and-death implications for so many people. That’s why every Senator should have a voice. The American people deserve the best bill we can write, and that requires a full, open debate. Trying to move a health care reform bill on reconciliation would rehash the Pelosi war cry, ‘We won the election, we get to write the bills.’ This kind of partisanship disenfranchises millions of Americans, and it’s wrong. They are looking for common sense solutions not party messages. The American people deserve a good, bipartisan bill, but using reconciliation will make that impossible.

“Including reconciliation language in the budget conference report, even as a so-called backstop would make it clear that Democrats don’t want to negotiate with Republicans or moderate Democrats, and might lead many to walk away from the table. I urge my Democratic colleagues to rethink their decision to include reconciliation instructions in the budget conference report, so that we can get back to working in good faith on comprehensive, bipartisan reform.”

#####