



For Immediate Release

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**Democrats Put Higher Income Earners
Above Veterans, Unemployed in Health Care Bill**

Washington, D.C. – Democrats on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee today rejected a proposal from Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) to eliminate handouts to higher income workers in the Democrats' health care bill and use the savings to expand veterans' health and education benefits, help Americans who have lost their jobs, or pay down the national debt.

"Supporting our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, helping people who have lost their jobs, or at least paying down our enormous debt should come before giving handouts to families earning almost \$100,000 a year," said Enzi, Ranking Member of the HELP Committee. "How can we truly help the needy if we waste taxpayer money on subsidies for people who are not facing the greatest need? Our veterans and Americans who are really struggling should come first."

The HELP Committee Democrats' bill spends \$723 billion on subsidies for Americans earning up to \$88,000 per year, which includes approximately 80 percent of the population. By targeting subsidies toward low-income people who really need help, the Enzi amendment would save \$400 billion.

"We cannot afford the spending in this bill. I support providing assistance for low-income Americans to buy health insurance, but families earning \$88,000 per year are not low-income," said Enzi, the Senate's only accountant.

Democrats rejected an Enzi amendment to the HELP Committee Democrats' health care bill to eliminate subsidies for Americans earning more than 250 percent of the federal poverty level, and redirect that money to pay for unemployment insurance benefits. Enzi also proposed using the money to expand health and education benefits for returning veterans or to pay down the national debt.

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