



For Immediate Release

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**Democrats Reject Enzi Proposal to Cut Health Care Costs  
by Reducing Frivolous Lawsuits**

**Washington, D.C.** – During today’s Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee consideration of the Kennedy health care bill, Democrats continued to reject every Republican effort to bring down health care costs, including a proposal from Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) to reduce frivolous medical lawsuits, which drive up costs and force doctors to order wasteful tests and treatments to cover liabilities.

“Frivolous lawsuits are driving costs so high that many people can’t afford care, but this bill doesn’t do anything to reduce them,” said Enzi, Ranking Member of the HELP Committee.

“As the President has said, we can’t enact sustainable health care reform without addressing skyrocketing costs. My amendment would bring down costs and make health care more affordable, while ensuring that injured patients are compensated fairly and promptly.”

Enzi offered the “Reliable Medical Justice Act,” which he introduced in 2007 with Senator Max Baucus (D-Mont.), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, as an amendment to the Kennedy health bill. The Enzi-Baucus bill would create demonstration programs for states to develop, implement and evaluate alternatives for resolving disputes over health care errors, and promote information-sharing to improve quality of care.

Democrats defeated the amendment on party lines.

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