



For Immediate Release

Contact: Craig Orfield
(202) 224-6770

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Health Department Experts Conclude House Democrats' Bill Would Drive up Health Care Costs

Washington, D.C. – A report released yesterday by the official budget scorekeepers at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) concludes that the health care bill authored by Democrats in the House of Representatives would drive up health care costs and force millions of Americans to lose the care they have now, including seniors on Medicare.

“We need health care reform that will reduce health care costs for American families, but study after study shows that the Congressional Democrats’ bills will actually drive up costs for most Americans. This is the wrong kind of reform,” said U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.). “How many more studies do we need before the Democratic Leadership will understand these bills will not work for Americans?”

The report undercut Administration claims that health care reform would reduce national health spending, which the President and senior administration officials have highlighted as one of the main justifications for enacting health reform. The HHS analysis concludes that the House Democrats’ bill would increase total health care spending by 2.7 percent. The report found that many of proposals advanced by the Administration and Congressional Democrats to help control future health care cost growth would have “a negligible financial impact over the next 10 years.”

The report concluded that, as a result of changes made in the bill, 12 million Americans would lose the employer-based health insurance coverage they have now, and 8.5 million seniors would lose benefits they enjoy under the Medicare Advantage program. The report also determined that Medicare cuts in the bill would lead many physicians, hospitals and other providers to stop treating Medicare patients.

Senate Republicans have requested a similar analysis be done for the bill recently reported out of the Finance Committee. The report on the House bill came on the heels of the first health care reform vote in the full Senate, in which 13 Democrats broke with majority leadership and joined Republicans and the American people in demanding that health care reform not increase the nation’s deficit.

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