



For Immediate Release

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Mammogram Controversy Highlights Concerns with Rationing Boards in Senate Health Bill

Washington, D.C. –A government task force has recommended women should not receive regular mammograms until they are 50. Is that a sign of things to come? U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) said people should be asking that question as Congress considers health care legislation that gives bureaucrats the power to determine which treatments and procedures patients can and cannot receive.

“Congress should not pass a health care reform bill that denies you the right to receive the medical procedure or treatment that you and your doctor agree is right for you. No bureaucrat should ever come between you, your family and your doctor,” Enzi said. “This study even discouraged self-examination. Patients need to listen to their own doctors and their own common sense.”

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, an independent group of doctors and scientists that make voluntary recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), issued a recommendation yesterday that women age 40-49 not receive regular mammograms. HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius quickly [clarified](#) that the members of the Task Force “do not set federal policy and they don’t determine what services are covered by the federal government.”

But would they under legislation pending before Congress? Enzi said legislation approved on a party-line vote in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and endorsed by Secretary Sebelius and President Obama would allow HHS to use the Task Force’s recommendations to determine which procedures and treatments could be covered under a government-run health plan – regardless of what a doctor might determine is best for an individual patient.

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