

SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE

KENT CONRAD, CHAIRMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 18, 2008

Contact: Stu Nagurka (202) 224-7436
Steve Posner (202) 224-7925

STATEMENT BY SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KENT CONRAD (D-ND) ON CBO RELEASE OF TWO NEW REPORTS ON HEALTH CARE

“I want to commend the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) on its release today of two new reports on our nation’s health care system. These extensive reports will provide Congress with crucial information and analysis as we undertake health care reform and seek out ways to control health care costs. The reports represent the culmination of more than a year of work by the strengthened CBO health care team assembled by former CBO Director, and now OMB Director nominee, Peter Orszag.

“There is simply no other issue that will have a greater impact on our long-term budget outlook than health care. We must bring down the cost of health care for both the private sector and the federal government. CBO’s reports examine several steps that have the potential to provide long-term savings, while at the same time improving health outcomes, such as expanding comparative effectiveness research, changing provider incentives, and better coordinating care for the chronically ill. These and other measures can provide the basis for the health care reform we so desperately need.”

###