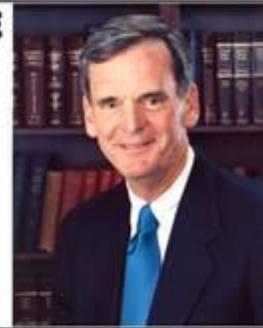


NEWS RELEASE

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GREGG: INCOMPLETE DEMOCRATIC HEALTH BILL ALREADY SPENDS \$1.3 TRILLION

Washington—Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Budget Committee Judd Gregg (R-NH) provided the following comment regarding the preliminary analysis released by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) on major provisions related to health insurance coverage in the Democratic health care reform bill considered this week by the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP).

Senator Gregg stated, “This assessment by CBO illustrates that the health care reform proposal put forth by the HELP Committee Democrats will cost considerably more than \$1.3 trillion over the next 10 years, and untold costs in the long-term. In addition, CBO estimates that millions won’t keep the coverage they have. These costs are absolutely staggering considering that only a portion of the proposal is reflected in this new analysis, and it excludes the potential costs of major provisions to expand Medicaid and a new government-run plan.

“This week we will be marking up a bill that doesn’t offer reform that millions of Americans are calling for, but instead offers less peace of mind to many who will be uncertain about their future insurance coverage. In its current form, it is clear this bill does more harm to our health care system than good. And this is only the start as the associated costs of several portions of the bill are still to be determined. I will continue to work with my colleagues toward a bipartisan bill that provides effective reform by ensuring all Americans have access to affordable insurance, increases the quality of care in this country, while we reduce costs to help pass on a system and country the next generation can afford.”

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