

February 1, 2005

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE ENZI, R-WY, CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR & PENSIONS:

“The figures attributed to this study, if true, are going to surprise a lot of people. They clearly underscore the serious nature of the problems facing the 20 million chronically uninsured Americans and the need for Congress to take action on health care as quickly as possible. Right now, too many Americans are one debilitating illness or accident away from financial ruin,” Enzi said.

“As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, I will be working with my colleagues from both parties, including Senator Kennedy, to pass legislation to restrain health care costs, increase access to care and improve health care quality. As a first step, I recently announced plans to introduce a bill, the Healthy America Act,” along with Majority Leader Bill Frist, to get us moving on this crisis.

“Although, we don’t have all the answers yet, it’s clear that uncontrolled health care costs are causing a ripple effect throughout our society, which eventually will have an impact on us all. The time to act is now. Our future and our children’s future depend on it.”