

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 10, 2006

**CONTACT:** Laura Capps/Melissa Wagoner  
(202) 224-2633

**KENNEDY: BUSH'S CURE FOR OUR HEALTH CARE CRISIS IS WORSE THAN THE DISEASE**

Washington: DC: Today at his address before the National Newspaper Association's Government Affairs Conference, President Bush responded to a question on health care and touted the Republican association health care plan being debated in the Senate. Senator Kennedy, who is leading the fight against this plan, responded with the following statement:

"Like his Medicare drug fiasco, the President's cure for the nation's health care woes is worse than the disease. In the guise of helping small businesses afford health insurance for their workers, the Republican plan is a blank check for the insurance industry and a bad deal for patients, resulting in higher premiums and lower benefits for millions of Americans with reliable health coverage today."

###