



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI CO-SPONSORS BILL TO PROTECT MEDICARE
FOR GENERATIONS TO COME, PUT FEDERAL BUDGET ON PATH
TO CONTROL WASTEFUL SPENDING***

Washington D.C. – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, R-WY, Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee), today co-sponsored a bill designed to “take the first steps toward broad Medicare reform and help place it on a sustainable path to ensure that seniors can receive the care and drugs they need for generations to come.”

“Medicare is on an unsustainable path and will not be able to continue meeting the needs of America’s patients or adequately reimburse health care providers who serve Medicare clients without real, comprehensive reform,” Enzi said Tuesday. “This proposal is a critical first step toward broad reform to modernize and stabilize Medicare.”

Enzi cosponsored the bill with Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg (R-NH) and Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT).

The bill would reduce Medicare spending by linking Medicare part D premiums to income so that low-income and-middle income taxpayers do not continue to subsidize higher-income older persons. It also would strengthen Medicare by laying a foundation for the budget reform long needed to sustain quality patient care for the elderly and ensuring that health care providers are adequately reimbursed for care provided to Medicare patients.

“Decreasing the deficit by controlling spending is essential,” Enzi said. “It is also essential to focus customer service where it will do people the most good and allow enough flexibility in the program to ensure high quality care in Medicare. This proposal maintains that focus and moves us in the right direction toward Medicare reform.”

Enzi, who serves on the Senate Budget Committee, and is one the Senate’s most outspoken proponents of meaningful budget reform, said the legislation provides key reforms to improve the quality of care and reduce costs by expanding the use of health information technology, bringing greater transparency to allow patients to compare costs of services, providing incentives for high-quality, low cost care, and introducing medical liability reform. These same critical reforms are included in a bill Enzi has introduced,

“Ten Steps to Transform Health Care in America,” (S.1783) , which is a comprehensive solution to expand access to affordable health care for all Americans. He is currently working to move that bill through the Senate.

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