



National Association of Health Underwriters

America's Benefits Specialists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 12, 2008

Contact: Kelly Loussedes, vice president of public relations
(703) 276-3835 or kloussedes@nahu.org

NAHU Statement on Senator Baucus' Blueprint for Health Care Reform

(Arlington, VA) – Janet Trautwein, CEO of the National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU), issued the following statement in response to the health care reform proposal released today by Senator Max Baucus:

“The National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU) congratulates Senator Baucus for his leadership in putting forth these thoughtful initiatives aimed at strengthening our health care system. NAHU represents agents, brokers and benefit specialists who work every day with employers and consumers in designing, providing and servicing quality private insurance coverage that best serves their needs, all of whom play an integral role in helping to make health care happen. We welcome the opportunity to share our unique understanding of consumer health care needs and the economic realities of health insurance markets in helping to forge consensus on health system reform proposals.

“Although no reform proposal is perfect, NAHU is pleased that Senator Baucus has sought to build on areas in which there is considerable bipartisan agreement including the need to constrain the growth of health care costs and improve quality and value through prevention and wellness, greater price and quality transparency, widespread and consistent health IT standards, comparative effectiveness research, the elimination of inefficiencies and insurance payment and medical liability reforms.

“NAHU applauds Senator Baucus' call for maintaining and strengthening the employer-based system, through which a majority of Americans receives quality and affordable health insurance coverage. We hope that his new pooling arrangements seek to maintain as level a playing field as possible for all players and ensure that competitive prices both inside such pools and in conventional markets can be maintained.

“NAHU shares Senator Baucus' commitment toward ensuring that all Americans have access to a health care system that delivers both world-class medical care and financial security. We believe the time is right for a solution that controls medical spending and guarantees access to affordable coverage for all Americans. We believe this can be accomplished without limiting people's ability to choose the health plan that best fits their needs and ensures them continued access to professional health insurance agents and brokers. We look forward to working with Senator Baucus, other Members of Congress and the new Obama Administration in crafting public policies that work for consumers, employers, providers and health plans alike.”

The National Association of Health Underwriters represents more than 20,000 professional health insurance agents and brokers who provide insurance for millions of Americans. For more information, please contact Kelly Loussedes, vice president of public relations at 703-276-3835 or kloussedes@nahu.org.

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