Statement of Support for Wyden-Hatch
"Health Care that Works for All Americans Act"

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO and AARP support a proposal by Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) that would require Congress to solicit and consider the opinions of ordinary Americans in the effort to improve the nation's health care system.

This proposal, contained in the bipartisan "Health Care that Works for All Americans Act," establishes a working group to gather the input and recommendations of the American people for the purpose of building a health care system that more carefully considers their needs, wants, values, and hard-earned dollars.

Under this approach, the public will be asked what it wants from our health care system, told how much it would cost, and then asked how it should be financed. After the American people have had the opportunity to participate directly in this process and the working group has compiled its recommendations, the Wyden-Hatch bill provides a guarantee that Congress will consider the proposals.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO and AARP commit to this national discussion of the most pressing health care issues -- coverage, cost and quality -- and obtaining the input of those most affected by the actions of Congress. We cannot know, of course, what the working group will ultimately recommend, but we support the need to find out the views of all Americans through a well-structured process.

The "Health Care that Works for All Americans Act" provides the roadmap needed to undertake a comprehensive review of our health care system and consider proposals for solutions. We urge its immediate consideration by the 108th Congress and will encourage our members to participate fully in this unprecedented national discussion. Meanwhile, our organizations will continue to support priority legislation addressing the immediate challenges confronting our health care system while the working group carries out its task.

        AARP   AFL-CIO   U.S. Chamber of Commerce