



BUDGET COMMITTEE



Judd Gregg, Ranking Member
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Senator Gregg: Reconciliation Makes Bad Health Care Policy Worse
\$2.6 Trillion Package Now Contains More Spending, More Taxes and More Gimmicks

Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, today commented to the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) final score of the House reconciliation bill and its impact on the Senate-passed health care bill. The House is expected to vote on both bills later today.

"The Senate health care bill was a disaster to start, but the reconciliation bill that is being used to buy House votes just makes it worse," said Senator Gregg. "Adding the reconciliation buy-it bill to the Senate health care bill makes the price tag jump from \$2.4 trillion to \$2.6 trillion when fully implemented. The way that the reconciliation bill "fixes" things is that tax hikes increase from \$560 billion to more than \$610 billion over ten years. Medicare cuts deepen, going from \$464 billion to nearly \$530 billion, with those savings still being double-counted in an egregious accounting gimmick to hide the true cost of the bill.

"Despite all of the additional spending, taxing and gimmickry, this package still leaves the same number of people uninsured – 23 million – as the Senate bill by itself. Promises that this effort will reduce federal spending on health care have come to nothing – CBO estimates the health care and reconciliation bills combined will increase the federal budgetary commitment to health care by nearly \$400 billion over the next ten years.

"This massive expansion of government is one more unfunded liability on our books, and the crushing costs will be borne by future generations. We cannot afford the government we currently have, so adding trillions to the debt in order to take over the U.S. health care system is completely irresponsible. We should be solving the country's problems for our children, not creating new ones."