

## For Immediate Release

## March 23, 2010

## **Reconciliation: It Will Make Bad Health Care Policy Worse** Democrats are Spending and Taxing More, but Not Insuring More People

- MORE SPENDING: When fully implemented (2014-2023), the new health care law costs more than \$2.4 trillion – the reconciliation bill will add another <u>\$200 billion in new spending over that</u> period: bringing the combined new spending in the Democratic health proposal to \$2.6 trillion.
- MORE ENTITLEMENTS: Over 2009-2019, the new health care law spends \$1.1 trillion on entitlements – the reconciliation bill will add another \$115 billion in new entitlement spending: bringing the combined new entitlement spending in the Democratic health proposal to \$1.2 trillion.
- MORE TAXES: Over 2009-2019, the new health care law contains \$560 billion in tax increases the reconciliation bill contains another <u>\$50 billion in tax hikes: bringing the combined tax increases in the Democratic health proposal to over \$610 billion</u>.
- MORE MEDICARE CUTS: Over 2009-2019, the new health care law cuts Medicare by \$463 billion the reconciliation bill cuts Medicare by another <u>\$66 billion: bringing the combined</u> Medicare cuts in the Democratic health proposal to \$529 billion.
- MORE GIMMICKS: The Democrats' reconciliation package is full of accounting gimmicks that hide the true deficit impact of the health package by counting savings in programs like Social Security (\$29 billion), CLASS Act long-term care insurance (\$70 billion), and Medicare (\$529 billion). Taking these gimmicks out, <u>the health package will increase the deficit by \$619 billion</u> <u>over the first ten years and will add \$1.8 trillion to the deficit over the second ten years.</u>
- A NEW PIGGY-BANK: Under the Democrats' reconciliation bill, policy changes that nationalize student loans result in deficit reduction of \$19 billion, savings entirely unrelated to health care that counts towards the combined deficit reduction of \$143 billion. Further, \$<u>9 billion in education savings will be used as a piggy-bank to pay for new health care spending.</u>
- MORE COVERED? NO: Despite a \$2.6 trillion price tag that will add \$618 billion to the deficit over the first ten years and add \$1.8 trillion to the deficit over the second ten years, the new health care law leaves 23 million people uninsured. Even with all the new spending, taxing and gimmickry under the reconciliation bill, 23 million people will remain uninsured.
- JUST MORE OF THE SAME: The newest Democrat health reform proposal explodes the size of government, implements huge tax hikes, adds trillions to the debt, interferes with the doctor-patient relationship, threatens job creation, and fails to control health care costs or extend insurance coverage to 23 million people. This reconciliation bill does not "fix" any of that...it simply makes it worse.