



**For Immediate Release
July 14, 2009**

Contact: Kristen Hawn (202) 226-9782

Blue Dog Statement on Health Care Reform Legislation

Washington, DC - Today, Representative Mike Ross (D-AR), Chairman of the Blue Dog Health Care Task Force, issued the following statement after the introduction of health care reform legislation in the House.

"The skyrocketing cost of health care is not only bankrupting American families and businesses; it is leading this country down a path to fiscal disaster. We can never balance the federal budget again without reforming the system to hold the growth of health care costs to the rate of inflation.

"The Blue Dogs are committed to passing health care reform. However, reform that does not meet the President's goals of substantially bringing down costs is not an option.

"Over the past several months, Blue Dogs have put forth substantive policy proposals aimed at achieving this objective, and we look forward to working through the legislative process to incorporate these cost cutting measures."

The fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. The Blue Dogs are dedicated to a core set of beliefs that transcend partisan politics, including a deep commitment to the financial stability and national security of the United States. Currently there are 52 members of the Blue Dog Coalition. For more information, visit the Blue Dog Website at <http://www.house.gov/melancon/BlueDogs/>.

###