



Press Release

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America's Large Employers Applaud Chairman Baucus' Call To Reform Health Care in 2009

(Washington, DC)—**Helen Darling, President of the National Business Group on Health (NBGH)**, released the following statement in response to **Senate Finance Committee Chair Max Baucus'** white paper, "Call to Action: Health Reform 2009." The NBGH represents more than 300 large employers, including 63 of the Fortune 100, providing health benefits to more than 50 million Americans:

"At a time of widespread economic anxiety, Chairman Baucus is to be commended for rightly recognizing that health care reform goes hand-in-hand with addressing our nation's broader economic problems. As America's businesses work hard to stay competitive in a global marketplace, the rising cost of providing health care benefits to workers, their families, and retirees continues to be a major challenge for businesses. With more than 46 million Americans without health care coverage and chronic illnesses threatening to overwhelm an already-stretched system, it is critical that all stakeholders come together to fashion comprehensive – yet workable – health reforms.

"We are very encouraged that Chairman Baucus has set forth a detailed plan that seeks to address these challenges and we look forward to reviewing his proposal in detail. Chairman Baucus has a long and distinguished record of bipartisan, results-oriented leadership that bodes well for enacting reform in 2009.

"America's large employers stand ready and willing to play a constructive role in advancing meaningful and comprehensive health care reform in the 111th Congress. An engine of reform in their own rite, large employers have consistently challenged providers and plans alike to bring more transparency, measurement, cost control, safety and accountability to the system. With the US spending more than \$2 trillion annually on health care, it is critical that we continue to work to ensure that consumers and private and public payors receive value commensurate with this huge investment of resources."

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The National Business Group on Health is the nation's only non-profit, membership organization of large employers devoted exclusively to finding innovative and forward-thinking solutions to their most important health care and related benefits issues. The NBGH identifies and shares best practices in health benefits, disability, health and productivity, related paid time off and work/life balance issues. NBGH members provide health coverage for more than 50 million U.S. workers, retirees and their families. For more information about the NBGH, visit www.businessgrouphealth.org