



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

NEWS RELEASE

<http://finance.senate.gov>

For Immediate Release
March 27, 2003

Contacts: Laura Hayes, Lara Birkes
202-224-4515

Baucus Introduces Legislation to Strengthen Health Care Safety Net

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) U.S. Senator Max Baucus today joined Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), John Rockefeller (D-W.V.), and James Jeffords (I-VT) in introducing a bill that would ensure that people have access to high quality health care by establishing an independent, nonpartisan commission to oversee America's health care safety net.

The Health Care Safety Net Oversight Act of 2003 would establish SNOAC – the Safety Net Organizations and Patient Advisory Commission. The Commission, to be modeled after the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), would be composed of professionals from across the policy and practical health care spectrum.

“Safety net providers are often the last resort for patients unable to afford the health care they need,” Baucus said. “These providers – from public and teaching hospitals to emergency departments to community and rural health centers – are all working independently to provide assistance to those who can't otherwise afford health care. This bill would work to coordinate their efforts so they can even more effectively provide assistance to those who need it.”