

Statement on Policy Progress on the Senate HELP Committee and House Legislation

July 15, 2009

WellPoint is deeply disappointed with the legislation progressing in Congress. Both the bill proposed by the House of Representatives and the bill passed by the Senate HELP Committee miss the opportunity to address the underlying cost drivers in our health care system. These bills rely on price controls and government expansion rather than measures to improve the quality of health care received and access to care by the uninsured. This only serves to make health care more expensive and less accessible, threatening the stability of the coverage most Americans have today.

WellPoint has proposed a comprehensive set of recommendations to address the underlying cost and quality issues that are currently threatening our health care system. We urge Congress and the Administration to consider these recommendations and commit to continuing to work together on the path to achieve responsible, sustainable health care reform.

Statement on Senate Proposal to Tax Health Insurance Companies

Today's proposal by some members of Congress to tax insurance companies as a way to fund health reform will further exacerbate the cost shifting already occurring in our health care system. This proposal is another way of taxing health benefits for all Americans with private coverage.

Earlier this year, health plans offered a comprehensive proposal to address rising health care costs. Rather than increasing taxes on individuals and businesses, we urge Congress to take the opportunity to fundamentally address the underlying inefficiencies in our health care system.

We are committed to continuing to work with members of Congress and the Administration to achieve responsible, sustainable health reform without increasing the cost of health care for those currently insured.