



## REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

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For Immediate Release:  
October 15, 2009

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## RYAN STATEMENT ON HEALTH CARE RECONCILIATION

In a quick, little-noticed markup, the Ways and Means Committee today gave a clear signal of the Majority's intent to muscle through a government health care takeover. The Ways and Means Committee reported the legislation to the Budget Committee under the fast-track reconciliation process, which the Senate will likely use if it cannot pass the bill under regular order. Chairman Rangel refused to allow debate or amendments on the legislation during today's markup.

House Budget Committee Ranking Republican Paul Ryan (WI) said the following:

*"As Congress moves health care legislation, Americans have every right to expect their Representatives to actually read the bills before they vote on them – understand the effects, the costs, and try to get it right – instead of rushing it into law.*

*"The Ways and Means Committee today reported legislation which exceeds 1,000 pages in length, creates a new \$1-trillion entitlement, adds \$239 billion to the deficit over 10 years, and further worsens the nation's long-term budget problem – with no debate or amendment.*

*"The Committee Majority also set the stage for the Senate to jam through a sweeping change in Americans' health care by misusing 'reconciliation' – a budgetary mechanism intended to control the size of government, not expand it."*

Reconciliation is a budgetary procedure principally used to reduce spending and deficits through a fast-track legislative mechanism. It is especially significant in the Senate, because it allows passage of a bill with a bare majority of 51 votes, and provides strict limits on amendments. This year's budget resolution included a budget reconciliation instruction to reduce the deficit by \$1 billion over 5 years. The Ways and Means Committee is using this procedure to push through legislation to create a new \$1 trillion health care entitlement – a clear abuse of reconciliation.

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