



**For Immediate Release
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Rep. Melancon: “Blue Dogs are committed to passing health care reform that works”

Washington, DC - Today, Representative Charlie Melancon (D-LA), Co-Chair of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition, released the following statement regarding the urgent need for responsible health care reform.

“The American people have legitimate fears about where this country is headed and what it means for their future and the future of their children. Years of irresponsible governing and reckless deficit spending have left us in a deep hole, marred by record deficits and skyrocketing health care costs. It is our responsibility as members of Congress to meet these challenges head on, and that means passing fiscally responsible health care reform that provides real competition and consumer choice in the marketplace.

“The Blue Dogs are committed to passing health care reform that works, and we will continue working with members in both chambers and on both sides of the aisle to make this goal a reality.”

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/>.

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