

Update on What Congressional Democrats Have Been Saying about the House Health Care Bill

There are **at least 68** House Democrats who have expressed either their outright opposition to or concern about the [House Democrats'](#) current health care reform bill. Please see below for a full list of the 68 and what they have had to say.

At Least 68 House Democrats Have Expressed Their Opposition To The Bill, Concern With The Bill Or Concern about The Timing Of The Bill:

Rep. Jason Altmire (D-PA)	Rep. Mike Arcuri (D-NY)
Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA)	Rep. John Boccieri (D-OH)
Rep. Dan Boren (D-OK)	Rep. Rick Boucher (D-VA)
Rep. Allen Boyd (D-FL)	Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA)
Rep. Bobby Bright (D-AL)	Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
Rep. Chris Carney (D-PA)	Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL)
Rep. Travis Childers (R-MS)	Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-SC)
Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA)	Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN)
Rep. Jerry Costello (D-IL)	Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX)
Rep. Dalkemper (D-PA)	Rep. Artur Davis (D-AL)
Rep. Lincoln Davis (D-TN)	Rep. Joe Donnelly (D-IN)
Rep. Steve Driehaus (D-OH)	Rep. Bart Gordon (D-TN)
Rep. Parker Griffith (D-AL)	Rep. John Hall (D-NY)
Rep. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)	Rep. Baron Hill (D-IN)
Rep. Tim Holden (D-PA)	Rep. Paul Kanjorski (D-PA)
Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)	Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH)
Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI)	Rep. Frank Kratovil (D-MD)
Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)	Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)
Rep. Betsy Markey (D-CO)	Rep. Jim Marshall (D-GA)
Rep. Eric Massa (D-NY)	Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT)
Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)	Rep. Mike McMahon (D-NY)
Rep. Charlie Melancon (D-LA)	Rep. Michael Michaud (D-ME)
Rep. Walt Minnick (D-ID)	Rep. Dennis Moore (D-KS)
Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-PA)	Rep. Scott Murphy (D-NY)
Rep. John Murtha (D-PA)	Rep. Glenn Nye (D-VA)
Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN)	Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-TX)
Rep. Tom Perriello (D-VA)	Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN)
Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO)	Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND)
Rep. Mike Ross (D-AR)	Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH)
Rep. Herseth-Sandlin (D-SD)	Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)
Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC)	Rep. Zack Space (D-OH)
Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI)	Rep. John Tanner (D-TN)
Rep. Gene Taylor (D-MS)	Rep. Harry Teague (D-NM)
Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV)	Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN)

Full Quotes:

- **Rep. Jason Altmire (D-PA): Voted Against The Health Care Bill In The Education And Labor Committee.** “Two key House committees moved along Democratic healthcare legislation on Friday, only days after the bill was introduced. ... The Education and Labor Committee approved their portion of the bill by a 26-22 vote. Democratic Reps. Jared Polis (Colo.), Dina Titus (Nev.) and Jason Altmire (Pa.) voted against the bill.” (Michael O’Brien, “House Committees Advance Healthcare Overhaul,” *The Hill*, 7/17/09)
- **Rep. Altmire: “I Can’t Support The Bill As It’s Currently Written.”** ALTMIRE: “Oh, I can’t support the bill as it’s currently written. The tax increases is going to put a burden on small businesses, who can’t afford to offer health care right now. What makes anything think that, by increasing their tax burden, they are somehow going to find a way to offer health care to people that they can’t afford to offer it to now?” (Fox News’ “Your World With Neil Cavuto,” 7/16/09)
- **Rep. Altmire: “This Bill, In My Opinion, Does Not Strike The Balance Between Preserving What Works In Our Current System And Fixing What Does Not Work.”** ALTMIRE: “This bill, in my opinion, does not strike the balance between preserving what works in our current system and fixing what does not work. We need to make the reforms in our payment system that currently incentivize inefficiencies. We need to do quality reimbursement, not quantity reimbursement. Currently, our reimbursement system is based upon how many services you provide and how often you show up in that doctor’s office. ... We need to change that. We need to squeeze the inefficiencies out of the system.” (Fox News’ “Your World With Neil Cavuto,” 7/16/09)
- **Rep. Altmire: “I Don’t Want To Talk About Any Tax Hikes.”** ALTMIRE: “I don’t think we need to go outside of our health care system to find any revenue that is necessary. I think we can find the revenue within the current health care system by squeezing those inefficiencies. I don’t want to talk about any tax hikes. ... I don’t want there to be tax hikes, even if they are being used for health care. I certainly don’t want them to pay for other programs.” (Fox News’ “Your World With Neil Cavuto,” 7/16/09)
- **Rep. Altmire: “I Have A Concern With Going Outside The Health Care System.”** “While a surtax on the wealthy may be the most politically palatable way to pay for the overhaul, it is sure to cost House Democratic leaders some votes among their caucus. ‘I have a concern with going outside the health care system’ to pay for the bill, said Jason Altmire, D-Pa., a Blue Dog.” (Alex Wayne, “How To Pay For Health Plan? Tax The Rich Or Not?” CQ Today, 7/13/09)
- **Rep. Mike Arcuri (D-NY): “It Will Be Very Helpful For Me To Have A Bill To Go Home With During The Recess To Talk To People In My District.”** “Rep. Mike Arcuri of New York, a Blue Dog Democrat, said slowing down will ease Americans’ fears that Congress is ‘shoving probably the most important piece of legislation that we’ve passed in many years down their throat.’ ‘It will be very helpful for me to have a bill to go home with during the recess to talk to people in my district,’ Arcuri said.” (Bill Theobald, “Rep. Space At Center Of Health-Care Reform Debate,” *Zanesville Times Recorder*, 7/21/09)
- **Rep. Arcuri: “I Understand The President Really Wants A Bill, And So Do We, But We Want A Good Bill.”** “Health care reform should benefit small businesses and the entire country long-term, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri, D-Utica, said Wednesday. And he’s not sure President Barack Obama’s health care plan does that. Among Arcuri’s concerns: Too much spending, too great of an impact on small businesses and not doing enough to secure funding through finding abuse of the health care system. ‘I

am totally committed on health care, but I am undecided on this particular bill,' Arcuri said. 'I understand the President really wants a bill, and so do we, but we want a good bill.'" (Bryon Ackerman, "Arcuri Undecided On Health Care Plan," *Observer-Dispatch*, 7/23/09)

- **Rep. Arcuri: "I Would Like To See Us Fund It In Other Ways By Finding Fraud And Abuse In The System."** "It includes additional taxes on people making \$300,000 or more, Arcuri said. There have been serious discussions of increasing the limit to individuals making \$500,000 or more and families making \$1 million or more, he said. 'I would like to see us fund it in other ways by finding fraud and abuse in the system,' he said." (Bryon Ackerman, "Arcuri Undecided On Health Care Plan," *Observer-Dispatch*, 7/23/09)

- **Rep. Arcuri: "We Cannot Do This On The Backs Of Small Businesses."** "The bill's first draft also states that small businesses making more than \$250,000 per year could face fines for not providing health coverage, Arcuri said. The charge for not providing coverage is as high as 8 percent of the total payroll for small businesses making more than \$400,000, he said. 'So these are pretty hefty penalties,' Arcuri said, adding that 'we cannot do this on the backs of small businesses.'" (Bryon Ackerman, "Arcuri Undecided On Health Care Plan," *Observer-Dispatch*, 7/23/09)

- **Rep. Arcuri: "Said He Isn't Likely To Support A Bill Rushed To Be Passed Before The Congresses August Recess."** "Arcuri said he isn't likely to support a bill rushed to be passed before the Congresses August recess, something the President has been pushed. 'We don't need to cram it down anybody's throats we need to make sure we do it right,' Arcuri said in a phone interview today." (Evan White, "Local Medical Institutions Concerned About Healthcare Reform," WKTV, 7/22/09)

- **Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA): "It Would Be Politically Unwise From A Policy Perspective" To Rush A Vote.** "Congressman Brian Baird said he was about halfway through reading a 1,012-page document Friday that could change the face of American health care forever. As he reads, he's accumulating a long list of questions as well, he says. ... The Vancouver Democrat, who worked in hospitals for 23 years as a clinical psychologist, says he hasn't decided if he will support the measure. 'It's far too early for me to say,' Baird said Friday during a phone interview with The Chronicle. 'We're making progress.' ... Baird was willing to take a stand on one issue that seemingly puts him at odds with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and President Obama — he doesn't think the measure should be voted on in August. ... 'It would be politically unwise from a policy perspective,' Baird said of a rushed vote, adding that it's important 'to see what our friends in the Senate would do. The Senate version might be completely different.'" (Eric Schwartz, "Baird Airs Views On Health Care Reform," *The Chronicle*, 7/25/09)

- **Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR): "I Don't Think An Artificial Deadline Helps Us."** "But with unease among rank-and-file lawmakers, pressure is mounting on Democratic leaders to reconsider. 'I don't think an artificial deadline helps us,' said Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D., Ore.)." (Greg Hitt, "Democrats Spar Over Medicare," *The Wall Street Journal*, 7/23/09)

- **Rep. John Boccieri (D-OH): "My Feeling Is There's Enough Money In The System Already."** "Still, that's the kind of discussion that could raise concerns for centrist freshman Democrats like Rep. John Boccieri (D-Ohio), who says there's 'a little fear' among his constituents of a government-run plan, and no appetite for a tax increase. 'My feeling is there's enough money in the system already,' Boccieri said." (Mike Soraghan, "Speaker Pelosi Makes Aggressive Push To Finish Healthcare Reform This Month," *The Hill*, 7/8/09)

· **Rep. Dan Boren (D-OK): “The House Bill That’s Out There, I Can’t Support.”** “Second District Congressman Dan Boren said Monday that health care reform rests largely on President Barack Obama’s willingness to accept bipartisan compromise on the issue. ‘If health care reform is going to happen it will have to happen in a bipartisan way,’ Boren told the Tulsa Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. ‘It’s really up to the president.’ Boren, a Democrat, said he is trying to keep an open mind but said, ‘The House bill that’s out there, I can’t support.’” (Tom Gilbert, “Boren: Bipartisanship Key To Health Care,” *Tulsa World*, 7/20/09)

· **Rep. Boren: “I Think We’re Spending Enough Already On Health Care. ... It’s A Matter Of Using The Resources Wisely.”** “So how would Boren suggest providing health care insurance to more individuals? ‘I think we’re spending enough already on health care,’ Boren said. ‘It’s a matter of using the resources wisely.’” (James Beaty, “Boren Wary Of Government-Run Health Plan,” *McAlester News-Capital*, 7/10/09)

· **Rep. Boren: “Said He Couldn’t Support Such An Issue” As Mandating That All Business Owners Provide Insurance Or Face A Fine.** “One radical bill floating out in the legislature would mandate all business owners to provide insurance or they would face a fine. Boren said he couldn’t support such an issue.” (Julie Yates, “Boren Answers Questions At Elks,” *The Daily Times*, 5/29/09)

· **Rep. Boren: “We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan.”** “We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion.” (Rep. Boren, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

· **Rep. Rick Boucher (D-VA): “Has Concerns About A Number Of Aspects Of The Draft Of Legislation.”** “However, Boucher said he has concerns about a number of aspects of the draft of legislation. For example, he said, he thinks a provision should be removed that would reimburse health care services based on Medicare reimbursement rates. ‘The hospitals in my district and across rural America struggle financially,’ states a July 16 news release on Boucher’s Web site. ‘Medicare does not currently pay them what it costs to provide patient care. They depend on privately insured patients to remain financially viable. If a public plan using Medicare reimbursement rates undermines the private insurance market, the struggling rural hospitals could close.’ On Thursday, Boucher added that the disparity by which hospitals in urban areas are reimbursed at a higher Medicare rate than hospitals in rural areas needs to be changed, resulting in a significant increase in Medicare reimbursement for rural hospitals. The July 16 news release on Boucher’s Web site also states: ‘I am skeptical of a government operated health care plan. I prefer the creation of a health care cooperative, owned and operated by its members, which would compete with private, for-profit health care plans. As a non-profit, the cooperative would effectively serve as a check on the cost of health insurance generally. Use of a cooperative instead of a public plan would also enhance our prospects of obtaining bi-partisan support for the reform effort. On a matter of this scope and importance to all Americans, I think that every reasonable effort should be made to enlist our Republican colleagues in drafting and passing the bill.’” (Paul Collins, “Health Plan Reviews Mixed,” *Martinsville Bulletin*, 7/24/09)

· **Rep. Allen Boyd (D-FL): “I Think That There’s Still A Long Ways To Go.”** “‘I think that there’s still a long ways to go,’ Rep. Allen Boyd (Fla.) said. ‘Many of us wish we would wait and do this after the

Senate acts, and we've communicated that to leadership.'" (Steven T. Dennis And Tory Newmyer, "House Health Bill Under Fire," *Roll Call*, 7/16/09)

- **Rep. Boyd: "If We're Going To Do This, We Need To Get It Right."** "Rep. Allen Boyd doesn't understand the rush to overhaul the nation's health care system. 'What's the sense of getting a health care reform that, when we go down the road six or eight or 10 years, you've got a worse problem than we've got now?' the Monticello Democrat said Wednesday. 'If we're going to do this, we need to get it right.'" (Eun Kyung Kim, "Boyd, Blue Dogs At Center Of Health Reform Debate," *Tallahassee Democrat*, 7/22/09)

- **Rep. Boyd: "Not Enough Has Been Done On The Cost Side. ... The Committee Has Not Done Enough To Reduce Costs In The System."** "If changes are not made to health care legislation currently before Congress, the bill is as good as dead, U.S. Rep. Allen Boyd said. The Monticello Democrat is a member of the 'Blue Dog' coalition, a group of 51 self-described fiscally conservative Democrats who have been actively lobbying for changes to the reform bill. 'Not enough has been done on the cost side,' Boyd said Monday. 'The committee has not done enough to reduce costs in the system.'" (Matt Dixon, "Boyd: Health Care Bill Should Be Scrapped," *News Herald*, 7/22/09)

- **Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA): "Said A Lack Of Meaningful Medicare Reform Is One Of The Reasons He May Not Vote For The Bill."** "Braley said a lack of meaningful Medicare reform is one of the reasons he may not vote for the bill. The House draft legislation does too little to address the current system, he said. It penalizes doctors and hospitals in states like Iowa that consistently rank at the top in quality of care and bottom in Medicare reimbursement rates. He's frustrated because language in the bill would prevent rates from being reduced for anyone who has been overpaid." (Jens Manuel Krogstad, "Braley Town Hall Focuses On Health Care Reform," *WCF Courier*, 7/20/09)

- **Rep. Bobby Bright (D-AL): "Said He Will Vote Against The Current House Version Of The Healthcare Reform Bill."** "Congressman Bobby Bright said he will vote against the current House version of the Healthcare Reform Bill unless it changes drastically. 'Not at all, not the way it is now,' Bright said during a phone interview with the Dothan Eagle." (Lance Griffin, "Bright: No To Current Healthcare Bill," *Dothan Eagle*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Bright: "Said He Opposes A 'Public Option' For Healthcare Reform."** "Bright said he opposes a 'public option' for healthcare reform. According to the current House bill, the public option would be a government subsidized plan that competes alongside current private healthcare plans. Bright said the public option placed too many healthcare decisions in the hands of government officials and could put private plans at a competitive disadvantage. 'I have said this from the beginning, that I would support a healthcare plan that is market driven,' Bright said." (Lance Griffin, "Bright: No To Current Healthcare Bill," *Dothan Eagle*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Bright: "For Them To Try To Pay For Healthcare Reform On The Backs Of Small Businesses, I Can't Support That."** "Bright said he also opposed tax increases on individuals making more than \$250,000 annually because he believed it would disproportionately affect small business owners. 'For them to try to pay for healthcare reform on the backs of small businesses, I can't support that,' he said." (Lance Griffin, "Bright: No To Current Healthcare Bill," *Dothan Eagle*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Bright: "We Don't Need A System Of Socialized Medicine Like We See In England Or Canada; That Doesn't Work."** "Bright cautioned those attending not to listen to scare tactics that have sprung up

in the health-care debate. 'Universal health care doesn't mean socialized medicine where the government controls everything,' he said. 'We don't need a system of socialized medicine like we see in England or Canada; that doesn't work.'" (Marty Roney, "Universal Care Not Socialism, Riley Says," *The Montgomery Advertiser*, 5/30/09)

- **Rep. Bright: "We're Slowing This Thing Down."** "'We're not Blue Dogs anymore - we're the bulldogs,' said Rep. Bobby Bright, a coalition member from Alabama. 'We're slowing this thing down.'" (Deborah Barfield Berry, "Blue Dogs Stall Health Care," *Clarion-Ledger*, 7/24/09)

- **Rep. Bright: "We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan."** "We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion." (Rep. Bright, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Chris Carney (D-PA): "I Would Not Vote In Favor Of It At This Point."** "Carney said he could not support a plan crafted by House Democrats because of the way the plan would impact small- to medium-sized businesses, rural areas and small hospitals. 'There is a 1,000-page template out of the House, but it's very fluid and being negotiated as we speak,' Carney said. 'There is not unanimous agreement on the initial version. Guys like me - the blue dog Democrats - are firm on our disagreement with certain aspects of the bill.' 'As it is now, and realizing it is extremely fluid and changes daily, I would not vote in favor of it at this point,' he said." (David Thompson, "Carney: More Time Needed For Proper Health Care Reform," *Sun Gazette*, 7/24/09)

- **Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL): Concerning The Surtax, "I Don't Love It. I Hope There Will Be Some Other Options In The End."** "But of the proposed surtax on wealthiest Americans, Castor is more reserved. 'I don't love it. I hope there will be some other options in the end.'" (Alex Leary, "Health Care Debate Divides Florida," *St. Petersburg Times*, 7/18/09)

- **Rep. Travis Childers (R-MS): "We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan."** "We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion." (Rep. Childers, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-SC): "I Don't Think We Have To Have The Surcharge At All."** CLYBURN: "Well, the Republicans I've spoken with are very concerned about this surcharge, and I am concerned about that, too. I've had listening sessions working with John Larson, Xavier Baccera, the chair and vice chair of our caucus. We've had six listening sessions of our members, and we have come away from those sessions believing that we can do this with the savings that we will get out of the system. If we don't get the scoring from CBO, we can still go ahead and do the plan as we envision the savings to be. And I don't think we have to have the surcharge at all. A lot of Democrats on my side of the aisle believe that." (MSNBC's "Morning Joe," 7/20/09)

- **Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA): “I’m Not Persuaded Any Sort Of Tax Increase Is Needed.”** “‘I’m not persuaded any sort of tax increase is needed,’ said Rep. Gerald Connolly, a first-term Democrat from Virginia. He suggests Democrats should focus more on finding budget savings. ‘The jury is still out on what, if anything, we have to do for revenue enhancement.’” (Greg Hitt And Martin Vaughan, “Health Bill In House Relies On Wealth Tax,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 7/11/09)
- **Rep. Connolly: “Looking At A Tax Increase Before We Have Rung Out Every Possible Cost Savings, I Think Is A Mistake.”** “Representative Gerry Connolly (D-Virginia) explained to CBS News' Nancy Cordes on Tuesday's ‘Washington Unplugged’ why the tax increases in the House version of the health care bill give him (and at least twenty two other freshman Democrats) pause. ‘Looking at a tax increase before we have rung out every possible cost savings, I think is a mistake,’ he said.” (Michelle Levi, “House Freshman: Tax Increases Are Not Answer To Health Care,” CBS News, 7/21/09)
- **Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN): “The Tax Increases On Small Businesses And Upper Income People Is Worrisome Because You Don't Want To Hurt Job Creation At A Time Like This.”** (ABC's “World News,” 7/16/09)
- **Rep. Cooper: “It Still Looks Like A Budget Buster.”** “‘It still looks like a budget buster,’ said Rep. Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.), who complained that despite the \$1 trillion cost it would still fail to cover every American.” (Steven T. Dennis And Tory Newmyer, “House Health Bill Under Fire,” *Roll Call*, 7/16/09)
- **Rep. Cooper: “Pouring More Money Into A Broken System Isn’t A Really Good Idea.”** “The bill proposed by the House would cost \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years, and concerns about cost make Cooper apprehensive about the legislation. He says bringing in money from small business owners isn't necessary, since there is enough ‘waste’ in the current system to pay for the program. ‘Pouring more money into a broken system isn't a really good idea,’ Cooper said. ‘There's so much waste in the health care system that we don't really need to go outside the health care system.’” (“Unplugged: Moderate Dem Talks About Health Care,” CBS News, 7/15/09)
- **Rep. Cooper: “Why Would We Want New Taxes In The Middle Of A Recession?”** “Cooper, one of the Blue Dog Coalition's experts on health-care reform, said the House bill ‘has good parts but also a lot of terrible parts.’ Among his objections, besides the bill's cost, is a proposed tax on families making more than \$350,000 per year, which he said would hurt small businesses. The tax would generate \$540 billion over 10 years. ‘Why would we want new taxes in the middle of a recession?’ Cooper said.” (Bill Theobald, “Health Bill Faces Fight From Tennessee Blue Dogs,” *Tennessean*, 7/19/09)
- **Rep. Jerry Costello (D-IL): “We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan.”** “We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion.” (Rep. Costello, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)
- **Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX): “Am I In Favor Of This Bill As It Is Written? I Am Not.”** “‘We have the more conservative folks and the more liberal folks pushing me both ways,’ Cuellar noted. ‘Do I believe in health care reform? Yes I do. But I also believe in insurance reform. Am I in favor of this bill as it is

written? I am not.” (Ron Maloney, “Somewhat Rowdy Crowd For Cuellar Visit,” *The Gazette-Enterprise*, 7/26/09)

- **Rep. Kathleen Dahlkemper (D-PA): “We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan.”** “We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion.” (Rep. Dahlkemper, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Artur Davis (D-AL): “Says The Plan Can’t Pass, ‘And More Importantly, Should Not Pass Without There Being A More Definitive Sense On The Part Of The American People Of What This Legislation Means.”** “Alabama Congressman Artur Davis (D-Birmingham) is among those not sold yet on the reform proposals. ...Some opponents believe the president’s reform bill might open the door to government funded abortions, something Davis says he’s strongly against. ‘Abortion is too polarizing and too decisive a topic for it to weight down the healthcare debate...’ he said. He went on to add that if individuals want to spend their own money to obtain an abortion, he believes they have a right to do so. ... Rep. Artur Davis has been quoted as saying the case hasn’t been made for President Obama’s healthcare plan, a lack of clarity on specific issues within the plan. Davis says the plan can’t pass, ‘and more importantly, should not pass without there being a more definitive sense on the part of the American people of what this legislation means.’” (John Shryock, “Rep. Davis Unconvinced With Healthcare Bill,” WSFA 12 News, 7/23/09)

- **Rep. Davis: “There Ought Not Be Any Artificial Deadlines Here.”** “‘There ought not be any artificial deadlines here,’ Davis says of the president’s wishes to get the reform bill done by August. Congress has already said that deadline won’t be met.” (John Shryock, “Rep. Davis Unconvinced With Healthcare Bill,” WSFA 12 News, 7/23/09)

- **Rep. Lincoln Davis (D-TN): “We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan.”** “We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion.” (Rep. Davis, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Joe Donnelly (D-IN): “I Want To Make Sure The Bill The President Has On His Desk Will Not Increase The Federal Deficit By A Dime.”** “Fox 28 talked to Rep. Joe Donnelly (D-IN) Friday about the president’s plan. Donnelly is one of several fiscally conservative, so-called ‘Blue Dog Democrats’ who has issues with the plan. Chief among those concerns: the cost. ‘I want to make sure the bill the president has on his desk will not increase the federal deficit by a dime,’ said Donnelly. ‘It’s clear we need better health care. It’s clear we need health reform., but we need to do it the right way.’” (“Donnelly Has Issues With Cost Of Health Care Plan,” Fox 28, 7/24/09)

- **Rep. Steve Driehaus (D-OH): “We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan.”** “We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to

the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion.” (Rep. Driehaus, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Bart Gordon (D-TN): “I Cannot Support The Bill.”** “On Thursday, Gordon and the other six Blue Dogs on the committee demonstrated their concerns about the bill by reading nearly identical opening statements. ‘I am thoroughly reviewing the bill. However, as currently written, I cannot support the bill,’ Gordon said after the hearing.” (Bill Theobald, “Health Bill Faces Fight From Tennessee Blue Dogs,” *Tennessean*, 7/19/09)

- **Rep. Gordon: “We Cannot Fix These Problems By Simply Throwing More Money Into A Broken System.”** “There are seven members of the Blue Dog Coalition on the Energy and Commerce panel. They expressed a broad range of concerns about the bill - ranging from its inclusion of a government-run public insurance plan to its treatment of rural areas - but focused mainly on its estimated \$1 trillion cost. ‘We cannot fix these problems by simply throwing more money into a broken system,’ said Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., a member of the Blue Dogs.” (Patrick Yoest, “Moderate US House Democrats Cite Cost In Opposing Health Bill,” *Dow Jones Newswires*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Parker Griffith (D-AL): “The Bill Being Present, With A Poorly Defined Public Option, Is A Trojan Horse Leading To Government-Controlled Health Care, And It Is Not In The Best Interests Of The Public.”** “U.S. Rep. Parker Griffith of Huntsville doesn’t want Congress to pass a health care reform bill that includes a new government-run insurance program. ... Griffith, a retired cancer doctor, said the public option is not well-conceived. ‘The (House) bill being presented, with a poorly defined public option, is a Trojan horse leading to government-controlled health care, and it is not in the best interests of the public,’ he said.” (Brian Lawson, “U.S. Rep. Parker Griffith Of Huntsville Says The Current House Bill ‘Is Not In The Best Interest Of The Public,’” *The Huntsville Times*, 7/27/09)

- **Rep. John Hall (D-NY): “Has Reservations About The Tax Component.”** “Rep. John Hall, D-Dover, Dutchess County, has reservations about the tax component. ‘This is a bill that is still in a state of flux,’ Hall said, noting that he’s working to make sure small businesses are not harmed.” (Brian Tumulty, “Health Plan Tax Meets Resistance,” *Democrat And Chronicle*, 7/20/09)

- **Rep. Martin Heinrich (D-NM): “It’s Still A Work In Progress And I Think We Need To Reduce Costs Before Considering Other Options.”** “Congressman Martin Heinrich says he’s not happy about a potential tax hike. ‘I think we have to be committed to providing health care reform this year to stabilize a very problematic system, but it’s still a work in progress and I think we need to reduce costs before considering other options,’ he said.” (“NM Congressmen Work To Complete Healthcare Bill,” *KOB News 4*, 7/21/09)

- **Rep. Baron Hill (D-IN): “Said This Morning He Would Not Vote For The Health Care Reform Bill In Its Present Form.”** “Congressman Baron Hill said this morning he would not vote for the health care reform bill in its present form, primarily because he believes it lacks effective health care cost controls. ... ‘There are seven of us blue dogs on the committee opposed to the bill in its present form,’ Hill said. ‘We met the last two days drafting amendments to the bill that address the issue of accountability and cost controls.’ Hill said he wants the bill to control costs by shifting the system away from the fee-for-service model, which he says financially rewards doctors and hospitals in direct proportion to the number of procedures they perform. ‘We need to create a medical system that makes sure the patient

comes first instead of a system that rewards doctors for overutilizing services,' he said. 'That means getting rid of fee-for-service.'" (Dann Denny, "Baron Hill Wants Health Care Bill Modifications," *Herald-Times*, 7/16/09)

- **Rep. Hill: "I've Expressed Some Concerns To Our President And To Our Leadership That That's Moving Awfully Quickly."** "Democratic House leaders have told Hill they want to pass the bill out of committee by next Wednesday or Thursday and President Barack Obama and House and Senate leaders want the bill voted on by the first of August. 'I've expressed some concerns to our president and to our leadership that that's moving awfully quickly,' Hill said." (Jill Hall, "Hill: Don't Rush Reform," *The Tribune*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Hill: "It's The Spending And The Cost."** "'It's the spending and the cost. The [Congressional Budget Office score] last week was really a hit across the bow,' said Rep. Baron Hill (D-Ind.), a Blue Dog leader and member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. 'Blue Dogs took that as an opportunity to try and make some sense out of all the spending that's in the bill. We must get it under control.'" (Mike Soraghan And Jared Allen, "Dems At Odds On How To Turn Tide On Health," *The Hill*, 7/21/09)

- **Rep. Hill: "I Think We Can Do A Whole Lot More Controlling Costs Here Before We Raise Taxes."** "Top among the Blue Dogs' concerns is the bill's cost. Currently, the legislation imposes a surtax on wealthy Americans to help pay for the plan, something Hill hopes will be unnecessary if he and other Blue Dogs get their way in imposing more cost controls. But he's not ruling anything out. 'I've got to keep an open mind' about financing health care, Hill said. But, he added, 'I think we can do a whole lot more controlling costs here before we raise taxes.'" (Lesley Stedman Weidenbener, "Hill: change Health-Care Bills," *The Courier-Journal*, 7/18/09)

- **Rep. Tim Holden (D-PA): "I Think We Ought To Slow Down."** "'There's an awful lot of unanswered questions,' said Holden, a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog coalition of Democrats that has balked at Obama's calls to pass the measure before Congress' August recess. 'I think we ought to slow down.' ... Holden, D-17th District, said he is open to the tax surcharge. But his concerns about the measure are widespread, starting with geographic designations that call for lower reimbursement rates for physicians in his district. He, like Kanjorski, has pressed leadership to exclude abortions from medical procedures covered under the government health plan. 'I have so many unanswered questions, I can't form an opinion,' Holden said." (Josh Drobnik, "Democrats Fear The Devil's In The Details," *The Morning Call*, 7/23/09)

- **Rep. Holden: "We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan."** "We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion." (Rep. Holden, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Paul Kanjorski (D-PA): "We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan."** "We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized

health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion.” (Rep. Kanjorski, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH): “We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan.”** “We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion.” (Rep. Kaptur, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH): “‘Concerned’ About The Taxes On Small Businesses And The Wealthy.”** “Although Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy, D-Columbus, was the only freshman Democrat from Ohio not to sign the letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., Kilroy spokesman Paul Tencher said she still is ‘concerned’ about the taxes on small businesses and the wealthy.” (Jack Torry, “Ohio Democrats Call Out Pelosi On Health Bill,” *The Columbus Dispatch*, 7/21/09)

- **Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI): Voted Against The Health Care Bill In The House Ways And Means Committee.** “The House Ways and Means Committee approved legislation early Friday to overhaul the health care system and expand insurance coverage after a marathon session in which Democrats easily turned back Republican efforts to amend the bill. ... In the Ways and Means vote, three Democrats — Ron Kind of Wisconsin, Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota and John Tanner of Tennessee — joined Republicans in voting against the bill.” (Robert Pear, “House Committee Approves Health Care Bill,” *The New York Times*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Kind: “We Have To Have Real Reform.”** “If that’s the case, fundamental changes will have to be made, several Democrats said. ‘We have to have real reform,’ said Wisconsin Rep. Ron Kind, a Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee who is pushing leaders to revisit Medicare’s complicated funding formula.” (Patrick O’Connor, “Rank-And-File House Dems Don’t Like It,” *Politico*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Kind: “We Are Not Doing Enough To Reform The Health Care Delivery System, To Change The Incentives So Reimbursement Will Be Based On The Value, Rather Than The Volume Of Services.”** “House Democrats who voted no cited various concerns. ‘We are not doing enough to reform the health care delivery system, to change the incentives so reimbursement will be based on the value, rather than the volume, of services,’ Representative Ron Kind of Wisconsin said.” (Robert Pear And David M. Herszenhorn, “Democrats Grow Wary As Health Bill Advances,” *The New York Times*, 7/18/09)

- **Rep. Frank Kratovil (D-MD): “Said The Plan Costs Too Much, Could Be Detrimental To Small Businesses And Doesn’t Address Rural Health Care Access Issues.”** “He said the plan costs too much, could be detrimental to small businesses and doesn't address rural health care access issues that constituents in his district face. ‘It doesn't do much good to have additional coverage of people when you don't have enough providers to provide coverage to those people, so in the rural areas in my district, we face significant doctor shortages, and I want to make sure that's being addressed,’ Kratovil said.” (“Md. Officials Split On Obama Health Plan,” *WBAL 11*, 7/22/09)

- **Rep. Kratovil: “I Want To Make Sure That Whatever We’re Doing, We’re Not Doing It Just To Get It Done But To Get It Right.”** “Obama said his health care reform plan will fix that, but to pass, he needs to win over critics like 1st District Rep. Frank Kratovil. He's one of the Democrats currently on the fence

about the plan. 'This could be one of the most significant votes I take in my career as a congressman, and I want to make sure that whatever we're doing, we're not doing it just to get it done but to get it right,' Kratovil said." ("Md. Officials Split On Obama Health Plan," WBAL 11, 7/22/09)

- **Rep. Kratovil: "Getting This Right Is More Important Than Getting This Done By An Artificial Deadline."** "At the very least, these questions about this bill's long-term fiscal implications should highlight the need to be deliberative and thorough in reviewing this health care reform legislation. We should not rush any plan through Congress that has not been properly vetted. The bill must be tweaked until neutral budget analysts confirm that it will sufficiently bend the cost curve to improve our fiscal outlook. Members of Congress must then have the time to talk with local stakeholders - such as the health care providers on the Eastern Shore who are at the front lines of the rural access crisis - to judge whether it adequately address these regional concerns. Getting this right is more important than getting this done by an artificial deadline." (Rep. Frank Kratovil, Op-Ed, "Do Health Reform Right Instead Of Doing It Quickly," *Baltimore Sun*, 7/26/09)

- **Rep, Kratovil: "I Will Not Support Any Legislative Proposal Until Its Full Consequences For Cost, Coverage And Rural Access Have Been Thorough Examined."** "I believe that anything worth doing is worth doing right, and I will not support any legislative proposal until its full consequences for cost, coverage and rural access have been thoroughly examined." (Rep. Frank Kratovil, Op-Ed, "Do Health Reform Right Instead Of Doing It Quickly," *Baltimore Sun*, 7/26/09)

Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA): "We're Not There Yet, Where I Want Us To Be." "Loebsack said, though, the bill is far from perfect, especially when it comes to the Medicare reimbursement system. 'We're not there yet, where I want us to be,' Loebsack said." (Christinia Crippes, "House Closes In On Health Care Reform," *The Hawk Eye*, 7/19/09)

- **Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY): "Also Isn't Ready To Back The Surcharge."** "Rep. Nita Lowey, D-Harrison, Westchester County, also isn't ready to back the surcharge, according to her spokesman, Matthew Dennis. 'Before she supports another tax on her already heavily taxed constituents, she wants to be sure we maximize savings by squeezing insurers as much as possible,' Dennis said in an e-mail. 'That must be determined before we put more burdens on American families. The process is far from over, though, and she will work to reduce the number of people who could be affected by the surcharge and the amount they would pay.'" (Brian Tumulty, "Health Plan Tax Meets Resistance," *Democrat And Chronicle*, 7/20/09)

- **Rep. Betsy Markey (D-CO): "I've Got My Concerns."** "'I've got my concerns,' said Rep. Betsy Markey (D-Colo.), a centrist lawmaker from a strongly Republican district. 'We've got to address cost, quality and coverage, with cost being No. 1.'" (Mike Soraghan, "House Dems Show First Draft Of Health Reform Bill," *The Hill*, 6/9/09)

- **Rep. Jim Marshall (D-GA): "He Is Opposed To The House Bill In Its Present Form And Does Not Believe It Will Become Law."** "U.S. Rep. Jim Marshall joined a group of fellow Democrats in opposing a bill that would make massive changes in the American health care system. Marshall released Friday a letter signed by 34 self-described 'fiscally conservative Blue Dog Democrats' listing objections to the bill. The Macon Democrat helped draft the letter and signed it, according to a news release from Marshall's office. It quotes his spokesman, Doug Moore, as saying 'Jim supports fiscally responsible health care reform. He is opposed to the House bill in its present form and does not believe it will become law.'" (Bernard O'Donnell, "Marshall Opposes Health-Care Bill," 13WMAZ.com, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Eric Massa (D-NY): “So If I Had To Vote On The Bill Today, I Would Not Be Able To Support It.”** “We spoke to Massa to find out exactly where he stood on the issue. ‘So if I had to vote on the bill today, I would not be able to support it. On the other hand we can not simply sit back and do nothing’, said Massa.” (Nick Natario, “Conflicting Stories,” WETM 18, 7/19/09)
- **Rep. Massa: “But I Will Not Vote For A Bill That Gets It Wrong, And If I Had To Vote Today For The Current Piece Of Legislation In Front Of Congress, I Would Not Be Able To Support It.”** “U.S. Rep. Eric Massa said if he had to vote today on America's Affordable Health Care Choices Act, he would probably vote against it. ‘We all know that one in six don't have health insurance. We all know that we pay more per capita for health care than any other nation in the world. These things need to be addressed, and doing nothing, which is what so many want to do, is simply not an option,’ said Massa, D-Corning. ‘But I will not vote for a bill that gets it wrong, and if I had to vote today for the current piece of legislation in front of Congress, I would not be able to support it,’ he said Tuesday during his weekly teleconference with the media.” (Ray Finger, “Massa Wary Of Health Care Reform Bill,” *Star-Gazette*, 7/22/09)
- **Rep. Massa: “I Do Not Want To Vote On This Bill On July 30. It’s Too Important To Get It Quick. We Must Get It Right.”** “U.S. Rep. Eric Massa is urging his fellow Democrats to hold off on voting on a \$1.5 trillion health care reform bill until after the August recess. Massa, D-Corning, said Congressional Democrats are moving too quickly on the legislation, which may be brought up for a vote by the end of the month. ‘I have communicated in writing to the leadership of the House of Representatives we are moving too fast,’ Massa said. ‘I do not want to vote on this bill on July 30. It's too important to get it quick. We must get it right.’” (Bob Recotta, “Massa: Dems Moving Too Fast On Health Care,” *Steuben Courier*, 7/26/09)
- **Rep. Massa: “We Cannot Break The Bank While We Break The Onerous Hold Of Private For Profit Health Insurers On Our Doctors.”** “He said, however, the current bill contains serious flaws that would force him to vote against it. ‘We cannot break the bank while we break the onerous hold of private for profit health insurers on our doctors,’ Massa said. ‘We must take HMO bureaucrats out of the examination room and this is what this is fundamentally about, taking the HMO bureaucrats out from between you and your doctor.’” (Bob Recotta, “Massa: Dems Moving Too Fast On Health Care,” *Steuben Courier*, 7/26/09)
- **Rep. Massa: “I Am Very Reluctant To Place Additional Surcharges On Individuals And Businesses.”** “The tax increase would be phased in starting with incomes of \$280,000. ‘I am very reluctant to place additional surcharges on individuals and businesses,’ Massa said. ‘We have not even started looking at cost containment, cost reductions and efficiencies. We've only nibbled at the surface. Before we start talking about more taxes, I want to fix what we have.’” (Bob Recotta, “Massa: Dems Moving Too Fast On Health Care,” *Steuben Courier*, 7/26/09)
- **Rep. Mass: “He Objects To A Penalty On Individuals And Businesses Who Opt Not To Participate In The Plan.”** “He also said he objects to a penalty on individuals and businesses who opt not to participate in the plan. ‘It was supposed to be voluntary,’ Massa said. ‘I don't consider that voluntary.’” (Bob Recotta, “Massa: Dems Moving Too Fast On Health Care,” *Steuben Courier*, 7/26/09)
- **Rep. Massa: Worried New Yorkers “Could End Up Paying A Disproportionate Amount Into The New System.”** “A \$1.5 trillion proposal to make health insurance available to every American could be unfair to New Yorkers, U.S. Rep. Eric Massa said Wednesday, July 15. The Corning Democrat said he's

concerned New Yorkers could end up paying a disproportionate amount into the new system that relies on the wealthiest, medical providers and employers to foot most of the bill. 'I'm opposed to it and it may be a deal-breaker,' Massa said in a morning conference call." (Joe Dunning, "Massa: New Yorkers Would Suffer Most On Health Care Bill," *The Courier*, 7/19/09)

- **Rep. Massa: "At A Time When New York Residents Are Up Against The Wall Taxation-Wise, I'm Reluctant To Go Down That Road."** "Massa said his chief concern so far is the tax impact to help pay for the program. Under the plan, a 5.4 percent tax increase would be levied on those making more than \$1 million a year, with a gradual tax beginning at incomes starting at \$280,000. In New York, that would affect 5 percent of the work force compared to only 1.2 percent of workers nationwide, Massa said referring to numbers supplied by Citizens for Tax Justice, a watchdog group. 'At at time when New York residents are up against the wall taxation-wise, I'm reluctant to go down that road,' Massa said." (Joe Dunning, "Massa: New Yorkers Would Suffer Most On Health Care Bill," *The Courier*, 7/19/09)

- **Rep. Massa: "I Think We're Moving Too Fast On Too Many Things."** "The House leadership wants to have this legislation done before end of July, Massa said, noting that is a significant concern. 'I think we're moving too fast on too many things,' he said. 'I would rather see these proposals put up, have members of Congress go back to their districts for the month of August, hear from their constituents and then return. So I'm very concerned.'" (Ray Finger, "Massa: Health Bill Must Cover All," *Star-Gazette*, 6/24/09)

- **Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT): "We Cannot Fix These Problems By Simply Pouring More Money Into A Broken System."** "The reform proposal, which seeks to control costs while expanding care, is facing a tough fight in the Energy and Commerce committee, mainly because of Blue Dogs like Matheson, who say the current bill is too costly. 'We cannot fix these problems by simply pouring more money into a broken system,' Matheson said." (Matt Canham, "Obama Group Targets Matheson With Health Care Ad," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, 7/19/09)

- **Rep. Matheson: "If We Don't Reform The System To Get Costs Under Control, Then Nothing Else Matters. ... We're Just Putting More People Into A Broken System."** "Rep. Jim Matheson, a moderate Democrat from Utah, suggested Mr. Elmendorf's assessment 'is of great concern' and called for renewed focus on restraining spending. 'If we don't reform the system to get costs under control, then nothing else matters,' he said. 'We're just putting more people into a broken system.'" (Greg Hitt, "Budget Blow For Health Plan," *The Wall Street Journal*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Matheson: "Take Whatever Time It Takes To Have A Good Bill."** "But Matheson said afterward that the group will still 'take whatever time it takes to have a good bill,' and will 'not be rushed by a deadline.' House Democratic leaders have said they want to pass reform out of committee by July 31, when the House starts its summer recess." (Lee Davidson, "Obama Meets With Matheson On Health Care," *Deseret News*, 7/22/09)

- **Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC): "We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan."** "We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion." (Rep. McIntyre, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Mike McMahon (D-NY): “I’m Not Convinced We Should Raise Taxes To Pay For This Until We Can Be Certain That We Have Squeezed As Much Revenue From The System As We Can.”** “Instead of raising taxes, some House Democrats say, lawmakers should dig deeper to find more savings in the health system. ‘I’m not convinced we should raise taxes to pay for this until we can be certain that we have squeezed as much revenue from the system as we can,’ said Rep. Mike McMahon, D-N.Y.” (Martin Vaughan, “House Democrat: US Lawmakers Should Also Pay Health Surtax,” *Dow Jones Newswires*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. McMahon: “The House Bill Weighed Too Much On Raising Taxes On Small Businesses.”** “Meanwhile, McMahon said he remains particularly concerned about a component of a Senate version ‘regarding employer-based benefits ... and the House bill weighed too much on raising taxes on small businesses.’” (“Staten Island’s Rep. McMahon Still Undecided On Obama’s Health Care Bill,” *Staten Island Advance*, 7/22/09)

- **Rep. Charlie Melancon (D-LA): “This Needs To Be Budget-Neutral, Meaning No New Dollars Are Spent Until We Find All The Savings We Can In The Current System.”** “Melancon, a member of the conservative Democratic group the Blue Dog Coalition, has identified some parameters of what the healthcare reform bill should include. ‘This needs to be budget-neutral, meaning no new dollars are spent until we find all the savings we can in the current system,’ he said. ‘That means avoiding the duplication and concentrate our money on preventative medicine.’” (Keyon K. Jeff, “Congressman Elicits Local Input On The State Of Tri-Parish Healthcare,” *Tri-Parish Times*, 6/5/09)

- **Rep. Melancon: “Why Are We Rushing It? ... Let’s Get It Right.”** “Representative Charlie Melancon, Democrat of Louisiana, suspects that a proposed government-run health insurance plan will be another unaffordable ‘entitlement program’ that puts a stranglehold on the federal budget and on future generations. ... ‘Why are we rushing it?’ asked Mr. Melancon, a Blue Dog on the Energy and Commerce Committee. ‘Let’s get it right.’” (David M. Herszenhorn And Robert Pear, “Concerns On Plan Show Clashing Goals,” *The New York Times*, 7/23/09)

- **Rep. Melancon: “We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan.”** “We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion.” (Rep. Melancon, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Michael Michaud (D-ME): “Businesses Are Having A Hard Enough Time Providing Coverage For Their Employees. ... It Would Be Going In The Wrong Direction To Tax Businesses.”** “In the House of Representatives, Rep. Michael Michaud of Maine’s second district said he is ‘not wedded to [Obama’s] time frame; I’m wedded to the idea that we do what is right for the country.’ As a fiscally conservative ‘blue dog’ Democrat, Michaud said, one of his primary concerns is how much the health care reform will cost and how it might be funded. He is opposed to taxing employer-sponsored benefits, one idea that has been floated. ‘Businesses are having a hard enough time providing coverage for their employees,’ he said. ‘It would be going in the wrong direction to tax businesses.’” (Meg Haskell, “Maine Leaders Weigh In On Health Care Bills,” *Bangor Daily News*, 6/27/09)

· **Rep. Walt Minnick (D-ID): “Says The Bill Is Flawed, Fails To Guarantee Affordable Health Insurance For All Americans And Calls For Too Big Of A Role For Government.”** “Idaho's two U.S. House members are joining the opposition forming against legislation designed to reform the nation's health care system. ... Democratic Rep. Walt Minnick says the bill is flawed, fails to guarantee affordable health insurance for all Americans and calls for too big of a role for government. Their comments come as Obama continues efforts to sell the American public on the reform package.” (“Minnick, Simpson To Oppose Health Care Bill,” *The Associated Press*, 7/23/09)

· **Rep. Minnick: “The Free-Market Principles And Cost-Control Suggestions Made By My Fellow Fiscally Conservative Blue Dog Democrats And May Republicans Were Almost All Rejected.”** “Rep. Walt Minnick (D-Idaho), who represents a conservative-leaning district, said, ‘The free-market principles and cost-control suggestions made by my fellow fiscally conservative Blue Dog Democrats and many Republicans were almost all rejected.’” (Mike Soraghan And Jared Allen, “Pelosi: I Have The Votes To Pass Health Bill,” *The Hill*, 7/22/09)

· **Rep. Dennis Moore (D-KS): “Slow Down!” ... “They Aren’t Looking For A Huge Tax Increase. Small Businesses Are Struggling To Make Ends Meet As It Is.”** “And this helps explain why Moore is now saying, in his laconic Kansas drawl, ‘Slow down!’ to the leaders of his party as they push ahead with a \$1 trillion-plus overhaul of the nation's health-care system. ... ‘If we don't act this year, costs for everyone are going to rise.’ The problem is runaway spending. ‘Voters want us to get some kind of a lid on costs,’ he continues. ‘They aren't looking for a huge tax increase. Small businesses are struggling to make ends meet as it is.’”

· **Rep. Moore: “Not Sure (The Delay) Is Detrimental ... Gives Us Time To Work Out Differences.”** “Setback. A death blow. That’s how the pundit class greeted the news that the Senate won’t meet President Barack Obama’s August deadline for passing health care. From his perch in Washington, Rep. Dennis Moore had a different take. It’s all good, the Kansas Democrat said. ‘Not sure (the delay) is detrimental ... gives us time to work out differences.’” (Steve Kraske, “Dennis Moore Says He Wants Health Care Reform,” *The Kansas City Star*, 7/25/09)

· **Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-PA): “Said He’s Not Ready To Commit To The Measure, Saying He Wants More Cuts.”** “And Murphy, D-8th District, said he's not ready to commit to the measure, saying he wants more cuts. ‘The bulk of the costs [for the bill] can be covered with cost savings in the health care system by cutting out the fraud, waste and abuse,’ Murphy said. He said he plans to introduce an amendment to try to curtail health care fraud.” (Josh Drobynyk, “Democrats Fear The Devil’s In The Details,” *The Morning Call*, 7/23/09)

· **Rep. John Murtha (D-PA): “We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan.”** “We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion.” (Rep. Murtha, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

· **Rep. Scott Murphy (D-NY): “I Don’t Think This Is The Right Way To Pay For Health Care Reform.”** “The plan, which would impose a surtax on individuals making more than \$280,000 and couples making more than \$400,000, is part of a bill the House could vote on by the end of the month. ‘The bill needs to

be more focused on taking costs out of the system,' said Rep. Scott Murphy, D-Glens Falls. 'I don't think this is the right way to pay for health care reform.'" (Brian Tumulty, "Health Plan Tax Meets Resistance," *Democrat And Chronicle*, 7/20/09)

- **Rep. Glenn Nye (D-VA): "The Time To Act Is Now, But That Is Not An Excuse To Accept An Irresponsible Bill That Replaces The Failings Of An Imperfect Health Care System With The Burden Of Rising Debt."** "Despite all of these challenges, avoiding the issue is not an option. The young woman who needs cancer medication can't put this debate off until a later date; nor can the small-business owners who are looking at ever-rising premium bills. The time to act is now, but that is not an excuse to accept an irresponsible bill that replaces the failings of an imperfect health care system with the burden of rising debt. We need to get this right, whatever the timing, and we need to do so in a bipartisan way that is fiscally responsible, that reduces costs, that preserves the rights of patients to choose their own doctors and that eases the financial burden on small businesses and American families." (Rep. Glenn Nye, "Health Reform Must Be Fiscally Responsible," *Politico*, 7/27/09)

- **Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN): "We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan."** "We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion." (Rep. Oberstar, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-TX): "We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan."** "We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion." (Rep. Ortiz, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Tom Perriello (D-VA): "Is Urging Leadership To Give Him Time To Vet The Health-Care Package With His Constituents."** "But freshman Rep. Tom Perriello (D), who represents rural parts of central and southern Virginia, voted for the cap-and-trade bill and is urging leadership to give him time to vet the health-care package with his constituents. 'You want to come up with your best ideas and take them out on the road and make them better,' he said, adding that the climate vote had already 'unleashed a full range of emotions' back home." (Shailagh Murray And Paul Kane, "Pelosi Vows Passage Of Health-Care Overhaul," *The Washington Post*, 7/27/09)

- **Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN): "There Is Enough Money In The System To Make This Work. What They're Talking About Doing Here Is Just Adding Some More Gasoline To The Fire That Going To Burn Down This Country."** "Here's a little secret you might not know about the health care reform being debated in Washington: Minnesota might not want it. At least, that's how members of Congress from Minnesota are talking about the reform proposals on the table right now. They're not sure that the potential cures for the system - requiring everyone to have insurance, expanding Medicare or taxing health benefits - won't be worse than what currently ails health care. 'They're trying to put a tax on people, so that they can keep the existing system going, and then add some more cost to it,' said Rep. Collin Peterson of Minnesota's 7th Congressional District. 'And it doesn't need to be done. There is

enough money in the system to make this work. What they're talking about doing here is just adding some more gasoline to the fire that's going to burn down this country. And I'm not going to go along with that.' Peterson's a Democrat, and he's for health care reform. Like most members of Congress, he thinks more people should be covered and that health insurance is too expensive." (Tim Nelson, "Minnesota Delegation Wary Of Proposed Health Care Reform," Minnesota Public Radio, 7/14/09)

- **Rep. Peterson: "We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan."** "We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion." (Rep. Peterson, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO): Voted Against The Health Care Bill In The Education And Labor Committee.** "Two key House committees moved along Democratic healthcare legislation on Friday, only days after the bill was introduced. ... The Education and Labor Committee approved their portion of the bill by a 26-22 vote. Democratic Reps. Jared Polis (Colo.), Dina Titus (Nev.) and Jason Altimire (Pa.) voted against the bill." (Michael O'Brien, "House Committees Advance Healthcare Overhaul," *The Hill*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Polis: "The Surcharge Is A Bit Of A Flawed Concept."** "Mr. Baucus isn't considering a major new tax of the sort being pushed in the House. That's prompting a chorus of House Democrats to call for their leadership to wait and see what Mr. Baucus produces before forcing rank-and-file lawmakers to take a career-defining vote on whether to levy a hefty new surtax on wealthy households. 'From a political perspective, there's wisdom and advantage to waiting for the other body,' said Rep. Jared Polis, a first-term Democrat from Colorado. Mr. Polis fears the levy would hurt small, family-owned businesses, which often pay individual income taxes, rather than corporate taxes. 'The surcharge is a bit of a flawed concept,' he said." (Greg Hitt And Patrick Yoest, "Centrists Seek To Slow Health Bill Timetable," *The Wall Street Journal*, 7/18/09)

- **Rep. Polis: "The Way We Are Paying For Health Reform Would Put A Lot Of Strain On Small Business, Which Is Particularly Dangerous During A Recession."** "On Friday, a group of freshman House Democrats traveled to the White House to talk with Obama about their opposition to provisions in the House bill to raise taxes on wealthy Americans. 'The way we are paying for health reform would put a lot of strain on small business, which is particularly dangerous during a recession,' said Rep. Jared Polis (D-Colo.), a leader of the group." (Noam Levey, "Obama's Team Weighs In On Healthcare Overhaul," *Los Angeles Times*, 7/18/09)

- **Rep. Polis: New Taxes "Could Cost Jobs In A Recession."** "On Capitol Hill, the picture is more complex. Representative Jared Polis, a freshman Democrat from Colorado who voted against the bill approved Friday in the Education and Labor Committee, said he worried that the new taxes 'could cost jobs in a recession.' ... Mr. Polis said these taxes, combined with the scheduled increase in tax rates resulting from the expiration of Bush-era tax cuts, would have a perverse effect. 'Some successful family-owned businesses would be taxed at higher rates than multinational corporations,' he said." (Robert Pear And David M. Herszenhorn, "Democrats Grow Wary As Health Bill Advances," *The New York Times*, 7/18/09)

- **Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND): Voted Against The Health Care Bill In The House Ways And Means Committee.** “The House Ways and Means Committee approved legislation early Friday to overhaul the health care system and expand insurance coverage after a marathon session in which Democrats easily turned back Republican efforts to amend the bill. ... In the Ways and Means vote, three Democrats — Ron Kind of Wisconsin, Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota and John Tanner of Tennessee — joined Republicans in voting against the bill.” (Robert Pear, “House Committee Approves Health Care Bill,” *The New York Times*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Pomeroy: “It Wouldn’t Be The Worst Thing In The World To take A Few Weeks Off.”** “‘It wouldn’t be the worst thing in the world to take a few weeks off,’ Pomeroy, one of three Democrats to vote against the package on the Ways and Means Committee, told reporters after the meeting.” (Carrie Budoff Brown, “Blown Deadline, Blown Chance?” *Politico*, 7/24/09)

- **Rep. Pomeroy: “Said He Will Not Support A Health Care Reform Bill In His House Committee Tomorrow Because It Could Financially Hurt North Dakota Health Care Providers.”** “Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., said he will not support a health care reform bill in his House committee tomorrow because it could financially hurt North Dakota health care providers. House lawmakers unveiled a first draft of their plan to reform the nation's health care system on Tuesday, with a public option that would pay health care providers at reimbursement rates used by Medicare, the government-run health care program for Americans 65 and older. Hospitals would receive an additional 5 percent reimbursement under the plan. Pomeroy, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, said that would hurt rural states like North Dakota, which has some of the lowest Medicare reimbursement rates in the nation -- a common concern among North Dakota health care providers.” (Brian Duggan, “Pomeroy Says Bill Would Hurt N.D. Providers,” *Bismarck Tribune*, 7/15/09)

- **Rep. Pomeroy: “Said Today That He Will Vote Against The Health Care Reform Bill ... Because It Would Tie The Payment Schedule For A New Public Option Insurance Plan To Existing Medicare Payments.”** “Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., said today that he will vote against the health care reform bill when it comes before the House Ways and Means Committee Thursday because it would tie the payment schedule for a new public option insurance plan to existing Medicare payments. Hospitals and other health care providers in North Dakota are seriously under-reimbursed by Medicare, he said, and ‘there is no way we would sustain existing levels of care,’ including access to hospitals and specialists, with a public insurance option linked to Medicare payment schedules.” (Chuck Haga, “Pomeroy Says He Will Vote Against Health Care Reform Bill,” *Grand Forks Herald*, 7/15/09)

- **Rep. Pomeroy: “I Have A Serious Problem With The Public Plan In This Bill Because It’s Based On Medicare Rates.”** “Others worry that a government-run health plan, to be created under the House bill, would underpay doctors and hospitals by using Medicare reimbursement rates. ‘I have a serious problem with the public plan in this bill because it’s based on Medicare rates,’ Representative Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota said. ‘North Dakota is underpaid by Medicare.’” (Robert Pear And David M. Herszenhorn, “Democrats Grow Wary As Health Bill Advances,” *The New York Times*, 7/18/09)

- **Rep. Pomeroy: “There’s A Very Regional Disparity In This Bill. I’m Highly Annoyed By That Inequity.”** “He said if a third of North Dakotans transferred their health care coverage to such a public health insurance plan, North Dakota hospitals would be poised to lose \$138 million a year. ‘There is no way we will sustain the availability of care ... if our health care system was to take that big a hit,’ Pomeroy said, adding ‘There’s a very regional disparity in this bill. I’m highly annoyed by that inequity.’” (Brian Duggan, “Pomeroy Says Bill Would Hurt N.D. Providers,” *Bismarck Tribune*, 7/15/09)

Rep. Mike Ross (D-AR): “No One Knows What The Public Option Will Or Will Not Be Able To Achieve. ... Frankly, It’s An Experiment.” “‘No one knows what the public option will or will not be able to achieve,’ said Representative Mike Ross of Arkansas, a Blue Dog leader. ‘Frankly, it’s an experiment. We cannot create a public option that stacks the deck against a system that currently provides coverage to more than 160 million Americans.’” (Robert Pear, “Obama Open To A Mandate On Health Insurance,” *The New York Times*, 6/3/09)

· **Rep. Ross: “We Need To Slow Down And Do It Right.”** “‘We need to slow down and do it right,’ Rep. Mike Ross, D-Ark., said outside a meeting of the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of 52 moderate to conservative Democrats. ‘It needs to do a much better job of cost containment’ within the health care system, he added.” (David Espo And Eric Werner, “Health Care Overhaul Suffers Another Setback,” *The Associated Press*, 7/9/09)

· **Rep. Ross: “We Cannot Fix These Problems By Simply Pouring More Money Into A Broken System.”** “The CBO director’s assessment also underscored concerns that moderate to conservative House Democrats known as Blue Dogs have with the bill backed by their leadership. ‘We cannot fix these problems by simply pouring more money into a broken system,’ said Rep. Mike Ross, D-Ark., chairman of the Blue Dogs’ health care task force.” (David Espo, “Health Care Overhaul Bill Has Its Ups And Downs,” *The Associated Press*, 7/17/09)

· **Rep. Ross: “We Had Seven Against It Last Friday; We Have 10 Today.”** “U.S. Rep. Mike Ross, D-Ark., a leader of fiscally conservative House Democrats, said Wednesday a House plan to overhaul the U.S. health-care system is losing support and will be stuck in committee without changes. ‘Last time I checked, it takes seven Democrats to stop a bill in the Energy and Commerce Committee,’ Ross told reporters after a House vote. ‘We had seven against it last Friday; we have 10 today.’” (Martin Vaughan, “Centrist Dem Leader: Has Committee Votes To Block Health Bill,” *Dow Jones Newswires*, 7/15/09)

· **Rep. Ross: “The Current Bill Would Have To Be Substantially Amended Before We Could Consider Supporting It.”** “Ross said the bill, introduced Wednesday by House Democratic leaders, doesn’t include provisions adequate to curb rising health care costs, including what the government spends on healthcare. ‘The current bill would have to be substantially amended before we could consider supporting it,’ Ross said.” (Martin Vaughan, “Centrist Dem Leader: Has Committee Votes To Block Health Bill,” *Dow Jones Newswires*, 7/15/09)

· **Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH): “We Clearly Don’t Want Any Federal Funding For Abortions.”** “A group of Democratic legislators sought Tuesday night to shape a compromise measure with an amendment say that abortion coverage could not be mandated as a part of insurance plans, but that insurance companies also couldn’t be prohibited from offering that coverage if they chose to. ‘We clearly don’t want any federal funding for abortions,’ said Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio), the lead author of a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi proposing the measure, which is unlikely to satisfy conservatives. ‘I think this is where both sides can come together.’” (Ben Smith, “Abortion Roils Already Tense Health Debate,” *Politico*, 7/22/09)

· **Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-SD): “Has Little Enthusiasm For A Plan To Impose A Surtax On People.”** “Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin has little initial enthusiasm for a plan to impose a surtax on people earning more than \$280,000 and couples making \$350,000 or more to pay for health care reform. The surtax and income tax would be expected to raise \$550 billion over 10 years. It is being

proposed by the House Ways and Means Committee. ‘Ways and Means last week took me a little bit by surprise, as well as a lot of folks,’ Herseth Sandlin said.” (Peter Harriman, “Tax Plan Fails To Impress Herseth Sandlin,” *Argus Leader*, 7/16/09)

- **Rep. Herseth Sandlin: Surtax “Not My First Choice.”** “The surtax is ‘not my first choice,’ said one Blue Dog Democrat, Stephanie Herseth Sandlin of South Dakota. ‘I’ve got some concerns.’” (Kristin Jensen And James Rowley, “Health Bill Hits Snag As Budget Office Questions Cost-Cutting,” *Bloomberg*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Herseth Sandlin: “I Don’t Agree With Those Who Say If We Don’t Get This Before August, We Will Never Get It Done.”** “‘I don’t agree with those who say if we don’t get this before August, we will never get it done,’ she said. ‘I think the window is a little broader than some people claim.’ Rather than a potential black hole that can swallow up momentum, Herseth Sandlin said the August recess actually can give members of Congress a chance to return home and make a stronger case for reform. She also predicts a bill will make its way through Congress and to President Obama by the end of the year.” (Peter Harriman, “Tax Plan Fails To Impress Herseth Sandlin,” *Argus Leader*, 7/16/09)

- **Rep. Herseth Sandlin: “I Am Not Prepared To Vote Unless I See Substantial Movement My Way.”** “While she is willing to vote for something before the recess, ‘I am not prepared to vote unless I see substantial movement my way,’ Herseth Sandlin said. ‘My thinking is the substance dictates the timing,’ she said.” (Peter Harriman, “Tax Plan Fails To Impress Herseth Sandlin,” *Argus Leader*, 7/16/09)

- **Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA): “I Don’t Think We Have Significant Cost-Containment Mechanisms In The Proposal Yet.”** “‘I don’t think we have significant cost-containment mechanisms in the proposal yet,’ said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif. He said he favors provisions aimed at preventing overtreatment of patients and overpayments to doctors, hospitals and other providers.” (David Espo And Eric Werner, “Health Care Overhaul Suffers Another Setback,” *The Associated Press*, 7/9/09)

- **Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC): “He Does Not Support The Legislation In Its Current Form.”** “Shuler, a leader of the Blue Dog Coalition, said the House bill accomplishes one objective of health reform, to expand access to health insurance, but does not do enough to reduce costs. ‘While I do believe that we must ensure that every American has access to affordable, high-quality health care, it is imperative that we fix the current system to eliminate the waste and abuse that has significantly contributed to our skyrocketing health care costs,’ Shuler said in a statement. While he does not support the legislation in its current form, Shuler said he is working to improve the bill by cutting waste and fraud, and adding reforms that include giving consumers incentive to live healthier lives.” (Bill Theobald, “Blue Dogs Key In Health Plan,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 7/22/09)

- **Rep. Shuler: “We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan.”** “We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion.” (Rep. Shuler, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. Zack Space (D-OH): “We Share Some Concerns About The Bill That’s Been Presented To Us By Leadership, Specifically Concerning Cost Issues And The Speech At Which We Are Moving.”** “‘I and the

rest of my Blue Dog Coalition... are deeply committed to fixing the health care delivery system,' Space said in an interview Tuesday. 'However, we share some concerns about the bill that's been presented to us by leadership, specifically concerning cost issues and the speed at which we are moving.'" (Bill Theobald, "Rep. Space At Center Of Health-Care Reform Debate," Zanesville Times Recorder, 7/21/09)

- **Rep. Space: "Reading The Bill Is One Thing. I'd Like To Get Feedback From My Constituents And Health Care Providers."** "Space said something as important as fixing the nation's health care system should not be rushed. 'What we are trying to do is make sure that it's a deliberate and thorough process,' Space said. 'Reading the bill is one thing. I'd like to get feedback from my constituents and health care providers back home.'" (Bill Theobald, "Rep. Space At Center Of Health-Care Reform Debate," Zanesville Times Recorder, 7/21/09)

- **Rep. Space: "The Congressman Feels We Need To Make Changes To The Legislation And Is Willing To Take As Much Time As Necessary To Improve The Bill To Protect Small Businesses And Hospitals."** "In particular, Space warned that none of the bills would control health-care costs and would impose steep costs on small businesses. He also said rural hospitals in his district would not receive a fair reimbursement rate for patients covered by a proposed government insurance plan. 'The congressman feels we need to make changes to the legislation and is willing to take as much time as necessary to improve the bill to protect small businesses and hospitals,' said Matt Thornton, a Space spokesman." (Jack Torry And Jonathan Riskind, "Ohio Dems Illustrate Divisions," *The Columbus Dispatch*, 7/23/09)

- **Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI): "I Cannot Support This Bill In Its Current Form."** "I cannot support this bill in its current form,' Democrat Bart Stupak said, adding it did not provide real competition for the insurance industry and could hike costs for consumers." (Kim Dixon, "Obama Looks For Republican Healthcare Backing," *Reuters*, 7/16/09)

- **Rep. Stupak: "You've Got A Broken System. We Are Perpetuating A Broken System."** "Rep. Bart Stupak (D-Mich.) cast himself as one of eight opponents of the bill as written on Energy and Commerce. 'You've got a broken system. We are perpetuating a broken system,' Stupak said. 'They've got to address our concerns, or the other option is a "no" vote.' He also said opponents might try to block a bill by defeating the House rule on the floor." (Jeffrey Young, "House Leaders Cheer Healthcare Progress Amid Infighting," *The Hill*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Stupak: "Why Would We Give You More Money For A System That's Broken?"** "Stupak's concerns are varied, but they include his desire for a prohibition on federal funding for abortions as part of the public insurance option under consideration, as well as a demand for deeper cost cuts and dealing with regional disparities under Medicare. Fundamentally, the bill does not fix the broken health care system, he said. 'Why would we give you more money for a system that's broken?' he asked." (Steven T. Dennis, "Stupak Warns Of Democratic Defections On Health Bill," *Roll Call*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Stupak: "Why Does One Person Make The Decisions In Washington, D.C.?"** "Stupak also is upset about the creation of a new national health czar who would set the rules for health insurance plans. 'Why does one person make the decisions in Washington, D.C.?' he asked. 'What's Congress' role? ... 'Just give us the money.' We have no say in it.'" (Steven T. Dennis, "Stupak Warns Of Democratic Defections On Health Bill," *Roll Call*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Stupak: "We Need To Quit Doing Health Care By A Clock. ... That's The President's Agenda, Not Our Agenda."** "Stupak said he believes the House can pass a health bill, but not by the Aug. 31

deadline. ‘We need to quit doing health care by a clock,’ Stupak said. ‘That’s the president’s agenda, not our agenda.’” (Jeffrey Young, “House Leaders Cheer Healthcare Progress Amid Infighting,” *The Hill*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Stupak: “We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan.”** “We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion.” (Rep. Stupak, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)

- **Rep. John Tanner (D-TN): Voted Against The Health Care Bill In The House Ways And Means Committee.** “The House Ways and Means Committee approved legislation early Friday to overhaul the health care system and expand insurance coverage after a marathon session in which Democrats easily turned back Republican efforts to amend the bill. ... In the Ways and Means vote, three Democrats — Ron Kind of Wisconsin, Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota and John Tanner of Tennessee — joined Republicans in voting against the bill.” (Robert Pear, “House Committee Approves Health Care Bill,” *The New York Times*, 7/17/09)

- **Rep. Tanner: “I Don’t There’s Been Enough Emphasis On Removing The Inefficiencies That Exist In The Current System Before You Put More Money In.”** “I don’t think there’s been enough emphasis on removing the inefficiencies that exist in the current system before you put more money in,’ said Rep. John Tanner (D-Tenn.), an influential Blue Dog who is also a chief deputy whip. ‘We’re not doing the reform. We need an incremental approach to get rid of these inefficiencies in the system.’ Tanner, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over the healthcare proposal’s tax policy, also says ‘there’s a great deal of uneasiness’ about the tax plans under discussion.” (Mike Soraghan, “Speaker Pelosi Makes Aggressive Push To Finish Healthcare Reform This Month,” *The Hill*, 7/8/09)

- **Rep. Gene Taylor (D-Miss): “I Don’t Think We Need To Make More Promises Until We Can Figure Out How We Are Going To Pay For The Ones We Have Already Made.”** “Rep. Gene Taylor (D-Miss.), who also signed the ATR pledge, believes the tax provisions in the healthcare reform bill will place additional financial burdens on the country at a time when it is already overburdened. ‘We can’t afford the promises that we have already made,’ Taylor said. ‘Between the prescription drug benefit and the Medicare trust fund running out in the next seven years, I don’t think we need to make more promises until we can figure out how we are going to pay for the ones we have already made.’” (Michael M. Gleeson, “Rep. Andrews, Norquist Butt Heads On Tax Pledge,” *The Hill*, 7/20/09)

- **Rep. Taylor: “The Problem Is As A Nation We’re Going To Have Trouble Paying For The Promises We’ve Already Made.”** “Fiscally conservative House Democrats, including Mississippi’s Gene Taylor and Travis Childers, thrust themselves into the middle of the health-care debate this week, blocking legislation drafted by their own party’s leadership. ‘Trying to help people with health-care problems is not a bad idea. The problem is as a nation we’re going to have trouble paying for the promises we’ve already made,’ Taylor said.” (Deborah Barfield Berry, “Blue Dogs Stall Health Care,” *Clarion-Ledger*, 7/24/09)

- **Rep. Taylor: “Said He Wouldn’t Vote For The House Health-Care Bill As Written.”** “Taylor said he wouldn't vote for the House health-care bill as written because it doesn't go far enough to address issues such as the possibility that Medicare will run out of funds sooner than predicted. ... ‘None of them is really going after trying to contain cost,’ Taylor said of the House bill and a similar one in the Senate.” (Deborah Barfield Berry, “Blue Dogs Stall Health Care,” *Clarion-Ledger*, 7/24/09)
- **Rep. Taylor: “We Cannot Support Any Health Care Reform Proposal Unless It Explicitly Excludes Abortion From The Scope Of Any Government-Defined Or Subsidized Health Insurance Plan.”** “We believe in a culture that supports and respects the right to life and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of families. Therefore, we cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan. We believe that a government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan, should not be used to fund abortion.” (Rep. Taylor, Letter To Speaker Pelosi, [LINK](#), 6/25/09)
- **Rep. Harry Teague (D-NM): “I Just Want To Be Sure That We Don’t Try To Do All This Solely On The Backs Of Small Business.”** “Congressman Teague is worried about the impact a health bill could have on the economy. ‘You know, as a small business owner in Hobbs, I know how important small businesses are to communities,’ Teague said. ‘I just want to be sure that we don't try to do all this solely on the backs of small business.’” (“NM Congressmen Work To Complete Healthcare Bill,” KOB News 4, 7/21/09)
- **Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV): Voted Against The Health Care Bill In The Education And Labor Committee.** “Two key House committees moved along Democratic healthcare legislation on Friday, only days after the bill was introduced. ... The Education and Labor Committee approved their portion of the bill by a 26-22 vote. Democratic Reps. Jared Polis (Colo.), Dina Titus (Nev.) and Jason Altimire (Pa.) voted against the bill.” (Michael O’Brien, “House Committees Advance Healthcare Overhaul,” *The Hill*, 7/17/09)
- **Rep. Titus: “Increasing Taxes Than Can Affect Small Businesses In My District Will Make It Harder For Them To Be The Engines Of Growth That Pull Us Out Of This Recession And Put People Back To Work.”** “Titus, who signed the letter, cited those concerns in explaining her vote against the bill at the committee level. ‘This was a difficult vote. There are positive aspects of this legislation like ending the practice of denial based on preexisting condition and making insurance portable. I know that families across Nevada are struggling due to the high cost of health care, but I have concerns regarding the tax portion of this legislation,’ Titus said. ‘We are working hard to lift our economy out of this recession and to promote growth and job creation. Increasing taxes that can affect small businesses in my district will make it harder for them to be the engines of growth that pull us out of this recession and put people back to work,’ she added.” (Jonathan Allen, “Freshmen Join Blue Dogs In Opposition To Health Bill,” *CQ Politics*, 7/17/09)
- **Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN): “I’m Concerned With Getting This Right.”** “With that in mind, Walz said he’s less anxious about getting a reform bill passed by the end of next week – a goal set by President Barack Obama – and more worried about making sure the legislation is well crafted. ‘I’m concerned with getting this right,’ the second-term Democrat said. ‘There’s nothing more important, I think, than getting health care reform right. ... This is going to be one of those generational opportunities.’” (Mark Fischenich, “Walz Favors Health-Care Reform,” *Mankato Free Press*, 7/22/09)