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AFL-CIO Applauds Senate Finance Committee Proposals on Payment and Delivery System Reform Options

(Washington, DC, April 29) - The AFL-CIO today urged the Senate Finance Committee to develop legislation that is in line with their recent report on "Transforming the Health Care Delivery System" which outlines several proposals to effectively combine reducing costs with increasing quality and expanding coverage. The AFL-CIO emphasized that these measures must go hand and hand for reform to work.

“Senators Baucus and Grassley have answered President Obama’s call to pass health care reform in 2009 by putting their committee to work,” said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. “This report is a milestone on the road to achieving guaranteed affordable quality health care for all of us.”

“America’s health care system will continue to cost too much, cover too little and exclude too many until Congress takes decisive action. America’s unions will continue to be an active part of the health reform discussion in Washington and back home so that we create a system that works for everyone,” continued Sweeney.

The report includes the following key provisions to address comprehensive health care reform:

- Paying for health care based on quality rather than quantity;
- Paying for the right care, not for poor care;
- Putting greater emphasis on primary care;
- Promoting health and reducing disparities;
- Putting the patient first by putting scientific data in hands of patients and doctors, so they can make informed care decisions;
- Reducing administrative costs and complexity.

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