



The United States Conference of Mayors

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U.S. MAYORS COMMEND PASSAGE OF HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL

Washington, D.C. -- Today, the U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran released the following statement subsequent to the passage of the health care reform bill:

"The nation's mayors highly commend House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA) for her efforts in the passage of comprehensive health care legislation. This could not have happened without her.

"Speaker Pelosi has long been a champion of American cities and this bill will help people in cities and towns across this great nation. Her leadership, her tenacity will be a part of history. She is the daughter of a mayor and the sister of a mayor – she just wants to get it done and she did. This moment is legendary for her.

"We also applaud President Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (NV) for their determination and unwavering commitment to bettering the lives of the American people.

"The Patient Protection & Affordability Care Act guarantees Americans affordable healthcare by expanding coverage for 32 million people while protecting our nation's fiscal integrity by reducing the federal deficit by \$138 billion in the first 10 years and approximately \$1.2 trillion in the following decade. The legislation includes improved tax incentives so that health care is more affordable for middle and moderate-income families; eliminates the Medicare prescription drug coverage gap for seniors and people with disabilities; and increases Medicaid payments to physicians and states.

"Not since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid, has this nation witnessed the enactment of such broad health legislation that protects so many in our cities and communities.

"Because of the bold action of so many members of Congress, the vast majority of Americans will now have access to affordable, quality health care.

"The nation's mayors look forward to working with the Administration to implement the provisions of this historic healthcare reform legislation."

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. More information about the Conference is available at usmayors.org.