



NEWS

www.atr.org
www.fiscalaccountability.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
23 SEPTEMBER 2009

Contact: John Kartch
jkartch@atr.org

Congress: You Can Spare Trillions of Our Dollars, But Can't Spare A Few Days of Extra Time?

Americans for Tax Reform and the Center for Fiscal Accountability Condemn Senate Finance Committee Rejection of Requirement to Post Health Care Bill and Score Online for 72 Hours Before A Vote

WASHINGTON, DC – As the Senate Finance Committee works through committee amendments to Chairman Max Baucus's (D-Mont.) mark on the health care bill, the committee today rejected a provision offered by Sen. Jim Bunning (R-Ky.) that would have required that the legislative language and the final cost analysis from the Congressional Budget Office be posted on the committee's Web site for 72 hours before the committee votes on the final bill.

Committee Chairman Max Baucus said that if the bill were to be written that way, it would take at least two weeks for staff to do so. Standard practice in the committee (the only committee working under this practice) is to vote on a bill that is provided in what some have dubbed "plain English" – really only conceptual language. While this practice has been ongoing for the last thirty or so years, this Congress's leadership vowed at one point to make this "the most honest, ethical, and open Congress in history."

"A 72-hour requirement would take an extra two weeks? So what? Senator Baucus, do we not deserve a few extra days of your time given that you and your fellow Democrats are setting out to completely overhaul our entire health care system funded with *our* tax dollars?" asks Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **"Conceptual language certainly isn't good enough. Regardless of what common practice used to be - an overhaul of such proportions handed down from leaders of the supposedly 'most honest, ethical and open Congress in history' deserves thorough public scrutiny of every single word in the bill."**

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. The Center for Fiscal Accountability, a project of Americans for Tax Reform, seeks to shed a light on government expenditures, and to promote transparency, accountability, and restraint in government finance. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jkartch@atr.org.

###