

BAUCUS BILL WILL CRIPPLE STATES EVEN FURTHER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 13, 2009

ALEXANDRIA, VA – Following the U.S. Senate Finance Committee approval of the Baucus health care plan, Scott Ward, President of the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC), the nation's largest caucus of Republican state leaders, released the following statement:

-MEDICAID EXPANSION OPPOSED BY STATE LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES-

It is disappointing that the Democrats on the Senate Finance Committee fail to recognize that their plan for health care reform fails to provide a cure. Rather than provide an opportunity for real health care reform that will truly provide more Americans with access to more affordable health care, what they approved today is yet another failed, overreaching government solution that will put more people on Medicaid.

State leaders from both parties have raised serious concerns about the crippling effect this legislation on state budgets where Medicaid is already a top budget driver. The Baucus bill is an imposition on state government leaders not only by taking over their ability to determine Medicaid eligibility but also tying the hands of state leaders to determine priorities in their budgets.

State leaders are proposing commonsense solutions to provide individuals access to affordable, quality health care. The RSLC examined this issue and 72 percent of Americans favored health care reforms being implemented on the state level, and prefer state-level approaches by a substantial margin over President Obama's proposed cumbersome health care proposal.

The Republican State Leadership Committee recently released a national survey on state versus federal solutions on health care reform.

The survey results can be found at <http://www.rslc.com/Survey.pdf>.

The Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC) is the only national organization whose mission is electing Republicans to the office of Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State and State Legislator. The RSLC is the largest caucus of Republican state leaders in the country making a national impact one state at a time.