

## Tentative Congressional Timeline for Achieving Health Reform by October

### June 11, 2009

To achieve President Obama's goal of health reform by October, the House and Senate have embarked on an aggressive timeline of action. The hub of this activity is in the five congressional committees with jurisdiction over health reform: Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means in the House and Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) in the Senate. Set forth below is the tentative timeline for action.

#### SENATE TIMELINE FOR PASSAGE OF A HEALTH REFORM BILL BY THE AUGUST RECESS

<b>WEEK OF JUNE 8</b>	HELP Committee bill officially released, followed by bipartisan walkthrough and hearing.
<b>WEEK OF JUNE 15</b>	HELP Committee markup begins. Finance Committee bill released.
<b>WEEK OF JUNE 22</b>	Continued HELP Committee markup. Possible Finance Committee markup. Once HELP and Finance have passed their health reform bills, committee members and staff will work to reconcile the differences and ready one bill for Senate floor action.
<b>WEEK OF JUNE 29</b>	Independence Day Recess
<b>JULY</b>	Continued markup in the Senate Finance and HELP Committees as needed, followed by Senate floor action, which is anticipated to result in Senate passage of health reform legislation prior to the August recess, which begins August 10.

#### HOUSE TIMELINE FOR PASSAGE OF A HEALTH REFORM BILL BY THE AUGUST RECESS

<b>WEEK OF JUNE 8</b>	Continued work to craft a single bill from which all three committees of jurisdiction will work. All House Democrats to be briefed on the draft legislation, a summary of which is released.
<b>WEEK OF JUNE 15</b>	House health reform bill text expected to be released.
<b>WEEK OF JUNE 22</b>	House committee hearings on health reform legislation expected.
<b>WEEK OF JUNE 29</b>	Independence Day Recess
<b>WEEK OF JULY 6</b>	Continued committee hearings on health care reform.
<b>WEEK OF JULY 13</b>	Committee markups.
<b>WEEK OF JULY 20</b>	Continued committee markups, as necessary.
<b>WEEK OF JULY 27</b>	House floor consideration and bill passage prior to adjourning July 31 for the August recess.

#### JOINT HOUSE/SENATE TIMELINE FOR MERGING THEIR RESPECTIVE BILLS AND ENACTING HEALTH REFORM BY OCTOBER

<b>AUGUST</b>	Staff work to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate bills.
<b>SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER</b>	Member-level negotiations and conference committee deliberations produce a final bill that must be passed by the House and Senate.
<b>OCTOBER</b>	President Obama signs health system overhaul into law.
<b>OCTOBER 15</b>	If health reform is <b>not</b> passed by October 15, 2009, the fiscal year 2010 budget resolution requires that a streamlined legislative process known as "reconciliation" apply to health reform legislation. This means that debate would be time-limited and that Democrats could pass health reform with 51 votes, instead of the 60 votes needed to curtail a filibuster. Should reconciliation be triggered, efforts at achieving bipartisan health reform legislation will likely have failed.