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Minnick to vote 'no' on House health care bill

Expresses hope that final version will be improved, earn support

Washington, D.C. – Idaho Congressman Walt Minnick released the following statement regarding his vote in the coming days on the Affordable Health Care for America Act.

"Over the last several months, I have met with thousands of constituents from all over Idaho's First Congressional District. They are gravely concerned about the economy, about job security, and about the kinds of opportunities their children and grandchildren will have to make a better life.

"Like most of them, I believe that cutting down the cost of health care is one important step we can take in moving our economy forward. We need to reform the insurance industry by demanding accountability and increasing private-sector competition. We must reduce government spending on programs such as a Medicare, and look to Idaho for examples of ways to do just that. And we must reduce costs throughout the health-care system, so the long-term benefits of reform will truly help our economy to grow and our nation to prosper.

"Unfortunately, the new health-care bill in the House does not adequately meet those goals, so I will vote 'no.' However, I am encouraged by the work of the U.S. Senate, and am hopeful that the final bill I vote on will be one that all Idahoans can support."