

NEWS – CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK

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STARK CALLS ON HUMANA TO LOWER PREMIUMS AFTER REPORTING JUMP IN PROFITS

WASHINGTON – Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, today commented on a mid-year earnings report from Humana. The insurer reported that for the first half of the year it collected 9.4 percent more in premiums and profits rose by almost 23 percent, as compared to the same period in 2009.

Chairman Stark: "Last week we found that Wellpoint and Aetna were reaping hundreds of millions more in profits while spending hundreds of millions less on health care. Today's report shows another insurer having a banner year. I await announcements by Humana and other insurers that they will be passing along these billions to consumers in the form of lower premiums."

This follows several announcements over the past two weeks:

- Last Wednesday, Wellpoint reported that their profits rose by over 25 percent to \$1.6 billion for the first half of 2010, compared to the same period in 2009. They spent \$1.21 billion less on medical care.
- Last Tuesday, Aetna reported that their profits rose by over 34 percent to \$1.05 billion for the first half of 2010, compared to the same period in 2009. They also spent \$557 million less on medical care.
- The week prior, UnitedHealthcare also announced record profits. In the first six months of 2010, their profits rose by \$471 million – over 25 percent – to \$2.3 billion.

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