

NEWS from
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6th District, California
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**WOOLSEY INTRODUCES PUBLIC OPTION
DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT**

WASHINGTON, D.C.--On the first day of the 112th Congress, Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-Calif., introduced The Public Option Deficit Reduction Act to trim billions from the federal deficit and make health insurance more affordable.

The bill would establish a robust public option (with physician payment rates set at Medicare plus 5 percent) in the health insurance exchanges created by the health care reform legislation passed in the last Congress.

It would bring down the cost of coverage by providing lower cost competition to private insurers and save the federal government \$68 billion dollars during the first seven years, and even more afterwards, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The public option was also cited by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform as a viable means to control health care costs.

“This is the perfect moment for the public option,” said Woolsey. “It builds on the health care reform legislation by lowering costs and it provides a great way to bring down the deficit.

“If Republicans really care about the deficit, they should sign on to this bill rather than try to dismantle the health care reform law, which would add billions to the budget deficit.”