

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: [Julia Lawless](#), [Antonia Ferrier](#)

June 3, 2011

(202) 224-4515

**HATCH SAYS TIME FOR WASHINGTON TO GET REAL
ABOUT DEBT CRISIS, ENTITLEMENTS MUST BE ON TABLE
IN DEBT DISCUSSIONS**

Utah Senator Responds to Senate Democrats Call that Medicare Should Not

Be on the Table in Negotiations

SALT LAKE CITY – U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee that has jurisdiction over Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, today reiterated his call that Medicare must be on the table in any negotiations to reduce the nation's over \$14 trillion debt. Hatch issued the following statement:

“What is it the Washington Democrats don't understand? Medicare is the leading contributor to our nation's debt and any attempt to confront this crisis in a meaningful way must include this broken entitlement program. If we are to ensure that Medicare isn't another broken Washington promise to our seniors then we have to discuss ways of fixing this program. Doing nothing puts seniors at risk. Doing nothing ensures that our children and grandchildren continue to foot the bill for a broken promise. Doing nothing is not an option. Unfortunately, the other side seems more content to play politics with our debt than lay out a plan to right our fiscal ship.”

###