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**ROCKEFELLER DEFENDS  
MEDICAID PROGRAM**  
*~Republican Efforts to Dismantle Medicaid  
Would Leave 18 million Uninsured~*

Washington, D.C. – Senator Jay Rockefeller issued the following statement in response to a Republican report outlining the cost of Medicaid expansion under the health reform law.

“I am extremely frustrated that Republicans continue to work to strip benefits that help real, working families in West Virginia and across the nation – rather than focus on creating jobs and providing help to the families who need it,” said Senator Rockefeller, chairman of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health Care. “Medicaid is a huge economic engine in every state – it supports doctors, hospitals, nursing homes, and community health centers across the country.

“Republicans are employing fuzzy math in their campaign to dismantle the Medicaid program and are grossly exaggerating the costs of this live-saving program. The fact is that the federal government will pay for the vast majority – 92 percent – of the Medicaid expansion over the next ten years. If my Republican colleagues do not believe that is enough funding for the states – and I strongly support giving the states all the help we can – there are really only two choices: have the federal government assume 100% of the cost, or let 18 million Americans remain uninsured.”

Medicaid costs per beneficiary grew much more slowly over the past decade than costs for employer-sponsored insurance or across the health care system as a whole. Between 2000 and 2009, Medicaid costs per beneficiary rose by an average of 4.6 percent a year while premiums for employer-sponsored insurance rose by an average of 7.7 percent and national health expenditures per capita rose by an average of 5.9 percent.

Approximately 200,000 of West Virginia’s 385,000 children are insured through Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

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