

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HELP Committee to Examine Impact of Health Reform One Year After Enactment**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Next **Thursday at 10:00 A.M.**, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) will convene a hearing to look at the progress states have made since *the Affordable Care Act* was enacted one year ago. The hearing will focus on what has occurred on a national level regarding implementation, how states are moving forward with health insurance exchanges, as well as other ongoing state implementation efforts. Witnesses will discuss the positive impacts that the bill is having across the nation and what needs to be done to ensure that the law is being properly carried out to benefit consumers. As Chairman of the HELP Committee, Harkin played a central role in helping to shape and pass *the Affordable Care Act*.

“As we approach the one year anniversary of enacting *the Affordable Care Act*, the benefits of the law are becoming clearer by the day. We are already seeing patients being protected from the worst abuses of insurance companies, free preventive screenings have become available, and the cost of prescription drugs is falling – and there are even greater benefits to come,” **said Harkin**. “There are still several key provisions of the bill that will need to be implemented in the coming years, and we want to hear from states who are on the leading edge of that effort, moving forward in delivering the law’s benefits to their citizens. This hearing will be an important part of that effort.”

The hearing will be webcast live at <http://help.senate.gov>.

Following the hearing, testimony and archived videos will be posted at:  
<http://help.senate.gov/hearings/>

**HEARING: “Health Insurance Exchanges and Ongoing State Implementation of *the Affordable Care Act*”**

**WITNESSES:** A full witness list is forthcoming

**DATE:** Thursday, March 17, 2011

**TIME:** 10:00 A.M.

**LOCATION:** Room 430, Dirksen Senate Office Building