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CONTACT: Lee Allen, VP, Communications and

[leeallen@naifa.org](mailto:leeallen@naifa.org)  
703-770-8112 (office)  
703-336-2462 (mobile)

## **PRODUCER GROUPS URGE CONGRESS NOT TO RUSH HEALTH CARE REFORM**

*Proposed Action Could Bypass Proper Deliberation and Debate*

WASHINGTON, April 22, 2009 — The National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA), the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA), AHIA – NAIFA Health & Employee Benefits (AHIA), the Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers (CIAB), and National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU) today joined forces in a letter to congressional leaders urging them to oppose efforts to include health care reform in the budget reconciliation instructions.

The organizations represent health insurance advisors, agents, brokers, consultants and employee benefit specialists.

Each year when Congress writes the budget resolution, they may include reconciliation instructions for the purpose of legislating mandatory spending and tax revenue policy proposals. Under normal Senate operating procedures, it takes 60 votes to prevent a filibuster and pass legislation. With reconciliation, it only takes 51 votes to gain passage of a measure.

The letter follows.

**About NAIFA:** Founded in 1890 as the National Association of Life Underwriters, the **National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors** comprises nearly 800 state and local associations representing the business interests of more than 50,000 members nationwide. Members focus their practices on one or more of the following: life insurance and annuities, health insurance and employee benefits, multiline, and financial advising and investments. NAIFA's mission is to advocate for a positive legislative and regulatory environment, enhance business and professional skills, and promote the ethical conduct of its members. Visit NAIFA's website at [www.naifa.org](http://www.naifa.org).



**THE COUNCIL**  
of INSURANCE  
AGENTS & BROKERS



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**  
OF INSURANCE AND  
FINANCIAL ADVISORS

April 22, 2009

The Honorable Kent Conrad  
Chairman, Senate Budget Committee

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman, House Budget Committee

The Honorable Judd Gregg  
Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Ranking Member, House Budget Committee

Dear Chairmen Conrad and Spratt and Ranking Members Gregg and Ryan:

We, the undersigned organizations, representing health insurance advisors, agents, brokers, consultants and employee benefit specialists, are writing to strongly urge you to exclude health care reform from the budget reconciliation instructions. An issue of this magnitude deserves its due consideration under regular order.

We applaud Congress and the Administration for making health care reform a top priority this year and agree that this legislation must be a bipartisan product with consultation and cooperation from the American public as well as stakeholders representing all sides. However, we fear the spirit of bipartisan cooperation will be lost if regular order is put aside and the reconciliation process is utilized to fast track health care reform legislation. The future of the nation's health care system deserves nothing less than an open, bipartisan and transparent debate by Congress.

As you begin deliberations in the conference committee, we hope you will support the Senate position and oppose any effort to inject health care reform into the budget reconciliation instructions.

Thank you for your attention and consideration to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

AHIA – NAIFA Health & Employee Benefits (AHIA)  
The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers (CIAB)  
Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA)  
National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU)  
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA)

CC: United States Senate  
United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius  
The Honorable Nancy Ann DeParle  
The Honorable Peter Orszag