



January 8, 2010

LAST CHANCE TO IMPROVE HEALTH REFORM BILLS

After being in session for 25 straight days, the longest streak since Congress debated whether or not to enter World War I in 1917, members of the U.S. Senate voted to pass their version of health care reform. After approving H.R. 3590 by a 60-39 vote on Christmas Eve day, Senate members returned home for a short break. But almost as quickly as they left, Congressional leaders were back in Washington this week to finish what they started.

This week President Obama, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid started negotiations on differences between the House and Senate bills. Both bills must be combined and passed by each chamber before going to the president for his signature.

Some of the key differences include: the creation of a public option, the "Cadillac" tax on high-end insurance plans, when insurance reforms in the bill should take effect and whether to tax "high income earners". These are just a few of the many issues House and Senate leadership will have to work out before holding the final votes.

While these negotiations are certainly headline grabbers, the biggest development this week may be the decision by Congressional Democrats to forego a formal conference committee. Doing so allows Congress to speed up the process while keeping most negotiations behind closed doors. Therefore, it seems likely that a bill will be voted on in the next few weeks.

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW! There are no more future chances to stop the current proposals from becoming law. **[TAKE ACTION NOW and contact your members of Congress!](#)** Tell them to VOTE NO on the current proposals and instead support meaningful health care reforms.

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