

September 9, 2009

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<!-- /* Font Definitions */ @font-face {font-family:"Cambria Math"; panose-1:2 4 5 3 5 4 6 3 2 4; mso-font-alt:"Calisto MT"; mso-font-charset:0; mso-generic-font-family:roman; mso-font-pitch:variable; mso-font-signature:-1610611985 1107304683 0 0 159 0;} @font-face {font-family:Calibri; panose-1:2 15 5 2 2 2 4 3 2 4; mso-font-alt:"Heavy Heap"; mso-font-charset:0; mso-generic-font-family:swiss; mso-font-pitch:variable; mso-font-signature:-1610611985 1073750139 0 0 159 0;} /* Style Definitions */ p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal {mso-style-unhide:no; mso-style-qformat:yes; mso-style-parent:""; margin:0in; margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:11.0pt; font-family:"Calibri","sans-serif"; mso-ascii-font-family:Calibri; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-fareast-font-family:Calibri; mso-fareast-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-hansi-font-family:Calibri; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-bidi-font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-bidi-theme-font:minor-bidi;} span.EmailStyle15 {mso-style-type:personal; mso-style-noshow:yes; mso-style-unhide:no; mso-ansi-font-size:11.0pt; mso-bidi-font-size:11.0pt; font-family:"Calibri","sans-serif"; mso-ascii-font-family:Calibri; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-fareast-font-family:Calibri; mso-fareast-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-hansi-font-family:Calibri; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-bidi-font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-bidi-theme-font:minor-bidi; color:windowtext;} .MsoChpDefault {mso-style-type:export-only; mso-default-props:yes; mso-ascii-font-family:Calibri; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-fareast-font-family:Calibri; mso-fareast-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-hansi-font-family:Calibri; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-bidi-font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-bidi-theme-font:minor-bidi;} @page Section1 {size:8.5in 11.0in; margin:1.0in 1.0in 1.0in 1.0in; mso-header-margin:.5in; mso-footer-margin:.5in; mso-paper-source:0;} div.Section1 {page:Section1;} --> Washington, DC – Congressman Ben Ray Luján made the following statement after President Barack Obama's speech on health insurance reform to a Joint Session of Congress.
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“Over the last month I traveled across New Mexico and spoke with many New Mexicans who have been harmed by our badly broken health insurance system. I heard from parents who lost their jobs, and their coverage, making it harder for their families to make ends meet and still receive care. I heard from the mother of a woman suffering from diabetes who could not get insurance because she had a pre-existing condition. Tonight, President Obama shared the

experiences others have faced. The reality is clear: these stories are far too common and we need to make health care more affordable and accessible. I applaud the President's commitment to this goal.

In his speech, the President emphasized choice, competition, and cost effectiveness--and I believe that those goals can best be achieved by a public option. This is what I have been saying throughout this process, and I am going to keep fighting to make sure that a public option is included.

I also agree with the President that we need reform that prevents insurance companies from unfairly denying claims, restricting coverage because of pre-existing conditions, arbitrarily setting caps on coverage, or placing limitations on care that your doctor says you need. I am encouraged by the vision that the President laid out tonight, and I hope that we are able to move beyond misconceptions and fear tactics to achieve real reform.”