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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

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### Opening Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce Regarding Supplemental Markup

### Amendments to H.R. 3200, the "America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009" September 23, 2009

We are meeting today pursuant to an agreement reached between Ranking Member Barton and myself at the conclusion of the markup of H.R. 3200, the "America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009".

On July 31, the Committee ordered H.R. 3200 reported. Over the course of the five-day markup on this bill, the Committee considered over 90 amendments, and approved over 70 Democratic and Republican amendments.

I am very proud of the Committee's contributions to this historic legislation to provide access to affordable, quality health insurance coverage to all Americans, and appreciate all of the hard work that Committee members and their staff have devoted to this effort.

At the conclusion of the July 31 markup, there were still a number of Democratic and Republican amendments that had been filed with the Committee clerk but had not yet been considered.

So at that time, Ranking Member Barton and I reached an agreement that the Committee would hold a supplemental markup to provide members the opportunity to consider a number of additional amendments relating to H.R. 3200. Today's meeting constitutes that supplemental markup.

The agreement reached by Mr. Barton and I limited the universe of amendments for this supplemental markup to seven identified Republican amendments and around 60 identified Democratic amendments.

Since July, we have been working with Democratic offices to winnow this list down. We understand Republicans still would like Committee consideration of the seven amendments Mr. Barton identified under our agreement.

Today, the vehicle for considering these additional amendments will be a motion by Rep. Dingell to instruct the Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce to transmit to the Committee on Rules additional recommended amendments for consideration in connection with H.R. 3200. Members will be able to seek to include amendments in this group of additional recommended amendments by the motion before us today.

I will start the amendment process with a manager's amendment that consists of amendments the minority has identified as those they can join the majority in supporting. Democrats and Republicans will then have the opportunity to offer amendments to this manager's amendment pursuant to the agreement between the Ranking Member and myself.

After Mr. Barton has had the opportunity to make opening remarks, I would like to move directly to consideration of the motion. I understand, however, that some members would like to make opening statements. Because of the number of amendments on our agenda, I will limit opening statements to 1 minute for those members seeking recognition.