

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS
RICK BOUCHER, VIRGINIA
FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
BART GORDON, TENNESSEE
BOBBY L. RUSH, ILLINOIS
ANNA G. ESHOO, CALIFORNIA
BART STUPAK, MICHIGAN
ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
GENE GREEN, TEXAS
DIANA DEGETTE, COLORADO
VICE CHAIRMAN
LOIS CAPPS, CALIFORNIA
MIKE DOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA
JANE HARMAN, CALIFORNIA
JAN SCHAKOWSKY, ILLINOIS
CHARLES A. GONZALEZ, TEXAS
JAY INSLEE, WASHINGTON
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN
MIKE ROSS, ARKANSAS
ANTHONY D. WEINER, NEW YORK
JIM MATHESON, UTAH
G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLIE MELANCON, LOUISIANA
JOHN BARROW, GEORGIA
BARON P. HILL, INDIANA
DORIS O. MATSUI, CALIFORNIA
DONNA CHRISTENSEN, VIRGIN ISLANDS
KATHY CASTOR, FLORIDA
JOHN SARBANES, MARYLAND
CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
ZACHARY T. SPACE, OHIO
JERRY McNERNEY, CALIFORNIA
BETTY SUTTON, OHIO
BRUCE BRALEY, IOWA
PETER WELCH, VERMONT

JOE BARTON, TEXAS
RANKING MEMBER

RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS
FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
CLIFF STEARNS, FLORIDA
NATHAN DEAL, GEORGIA
ED WHITFIELD, KENTUCKY
JOHN SHIMKUS, ILLINOIS
JOHN B. SHADEGG, ARIZONA
ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI
STEVE BUYER, INDIANA
GEORGE RADANOVICH, CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH R. PITTS, PENNSYLVANIA
MARY BONO MACK, CALIFORNIA
GREG WALDEN, OREGON
LEE TERRY, NEBRASKA
MIKE ROGERS, MICHIGAN
SUE WILKINS MYRICK, NORTH CAROLINA
JOHN SULLIVAN, OKLAHOMA
TIM MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL C. BURGESS, TEXAS
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE
PHIL GINGREY, GEORGIA
STEVE SCALISE, LOUISIANA

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

MAJORITY (202) 225-2927
FACSIMILE (202) 225-2525
MINORITY (202) 225-3641

energycommerce.house.gov

Opening Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce “Secretary Kathleen Sebelius: The President’s Fiscal Year 2011 Budget” February 4, 2010

This afternoon, we will hear from the distinguished Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius. She will testify on the health proposals in the President’s Fiscal Year 2011 Budget for which her Department has responsibility.

This responsibility is daunting. The Department she leads has a budget of over \$900 billion in FY 2011. The programs that her Department administers will directly affect the nation’s public health and will ensure access to needed health care by over 100 million Americans enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid, and the Child Health Insurance Program.

As President Obama reminded us on Monday, our nation is at war, and our economy has lost 7 million jobs over the last two years. The deficit that greeted his Administration stood at \$1.3 trillion. Our successful efforts over the past year to rescue the economy and the financial system from collapse have unavoidably added to that deficit.

We clearly need to solve the deficit problem. But we can’t do it overnight, and the President’s budget wisely does not try to do so.

The budget strikes a careful balance—helping unemployed families by creating jobs and protecting them against the loss of health insurance; investing in next-generation health care technologies; and taking steps to reduce the deficit while protecting the most important investments.

In the health area, the President’s budget recognizes that certain investments are essential while the economic recovery is still underway:

- The budget supports the enactment of health reform, which will provide affordable coverage for over 30 million uninsured Americans while reducing the unsustainable rate of increase in health care costs.

- The budget recognizes the need to protect the ability of America's seniors to see their doctors by repairing Medicare's physician payment system.
- The budget provides additional help to states that are struggling to maintain their Medicaid programs in the face of increased demand and reduced revenues.
- The budget increases funding for community health centers to provide cost-effective primary care, and it invests in prevention and wellness activities to improve the nation's health and to reduce the need for expensive medical care.
- The budget increases resources for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that will enable the agency to improve its oversight of medical products, strengthen its food safety efforts, and implement its new responsibilities for tobacco.

It is the duty of Congress to consider the President's budget proposals as it makes its spending and revenue decisions for the coming fiscal year.

Secretary Sebelius is here to assist the Members of this Committee in carrying out that responsibility by giving us a better understanding of the proposals and their rationale.

Through this conversation, we can together make federal health programs work as effectively and efficiently as possible. I look forward to learning from her.