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November 20, 2009
Rogers, AR

Arkansas Republican Senate candidate Buddy Rogers (Rogers, AR) released a statement today asking Senator Blanche Lincoln (D., AR) to vote against the Senate version of the “health care reform” bill. “This bill, like the one passed by the House, is a federal takeover of healthcare and is designed to lead to a single payer system, as many liberals including Congressman Barney Frank (D., MA) have admitted.” Rogers said. “Arkansans do not want this monstrosity.”

He cautioned Lincoln not to vote for cloture and then vote against the final bill. “With a Democrat majority in the Senate, a vote for cloture is a vote for the bill. Arkansans will not be fooled by such a cheap political trick.”

Rogers, a retired Army health care administrator and former professor in the U.S. Army-Baylor University graduate program in health care administration, contends that the bill not only takes over health care, but will increase costs. “Accounting tricks disguise much of the dollar cost, but Harry Reid cannot disguise other costs: the destruction of jobs, the attack on individual freedom, the expansion of dependency on government, the increase in taxes and insurance premiums, and the creation of more unresponsive bureaucracies.”

He pointed out that although proponents claim that the bill would reduce the deficit, Congress has a poor record in forecasting health care costs. “When Medicare became law, Congress predicted it would cost \$12 billion per year by 1990; the actual cost that year was \$110

billion.”

Rogers also contended that measures that would actually improve health care quality and access were largely absent from the bill. He advocated “common sense” measures such as enacting tort reform, equalizing tax treatment for private and employer provided insurance, making insurance available across state lines, giving consumers quality and cost information, and increasing the supply of providers to reduce costs and increase accessibility.