5-14-2008

Talking Points, Healthcare Summit meeting

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Senator * or Department*: BAUCUS

Instructions:
Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.
Prepare and insert additional forms at points that you want to index.
For example: at the beginning of a new folder, briefing book, topic, project, or date sequence.

Record Type*: Speeches

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: May-2008
(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject*: Health
(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject* Medicare

DOCUMENT DATE*: 05/14/2008
(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"
Talkers

Meeting with Senator Grassley, Senator Rockefeller, and Senator Hatch
Wednesday, May 14, 2008.

Health Care Summit

- First, Senator Grassley and I would like to talk about the Health Care Summit which is happening on June 16th.

- We would really like you both to lead a concurrent session together.

- We don’t have much time left to organize this Summit.

- We would like to start firming up the agenda by the end of this week.

- We are hoping you both would come to an agreement on a topic for a concurrent session.

- After you have agreed, we will approach other members.

- Can this be worked out before the end of the week?
Medicare

- Now let’s talk about Medicare.

- As you know, we have been working on a $15 to $18 billion package.

- But, the package could be smaller, much smaller.

- The White House, McConnell and others I hear from seem to be pushing for an even smaller bill.

- I am shooting for an 18 month doc fix and extending provisions that expire on June 30th.

- And I am working to do more.

- As you know, it has been an important priority to make sure this bill helps beneficiaries, especially low-income folks.

- But, at this point, nothing’s set in stone. It’s been a slow process.

- Staff have been meeting for 6 weeks and we don’t have agreement on a final package.

- We need to make decisions about the process for moving forward.

- We need to think about how you both can be involved in the process.