



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACC CEO Jack Lewin, MD, on the Passage of the Senate Finance Committee's Health Reform Package

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The American College of Cardiology's (ACC) CEO, Jack Lewin, M.D., today released the following statement after the Senate Finance Committee voted to approve the Chairman's mark of the America's Healthy Future Act by a vote of 14-9:

"We are excited that this crucial step forward was taken today and hopeful it will lead to meaningful health care reforms. This bill provides an excellent starting point for developing a comprehensive health care reform bill to ensure that quality health care delivered efficiently and responsibly with a focus on outcomes is the primary goal.

"Senator Snowe's vote today should reflect the meaningful and substantive policy changes that should take place under this bill. It's the ACC's hope that members from both sides of the aisle will continue to have meaningful debate and look at health reforms on their merits and not through party-tinged glasses.

"We are pleased with the CMS innovation center idea that will look at appropriate use criteria and registries, two quality improvement tools strongly backed by the ACC, to hopefully develop better payment models.

"While there are issues that the Senate Finance Committee Bill does not address, such as full physician payment reforms and substantial tort reform, it is crucial that Congress continue to move forward with this legislation that can serve as a platform for delivering a meaningful health care reform bill to the desk of President Obama for him to sign."

About the American College of Cardiology:

The American College of Cardiology is leading the way to optimal cardiovascular care and disease prevention. The College is a 37,000-member nonprofit medical society and bestows the credential Fellow of the American College of Cardiology upon physicians who meet its stringent qualifications. The College is a leader in the formulation of health policy, standards and guidelines, and is a staunch supporter of cardiovascular research. The ACC provides professional education and operates national registries for the

measurement and improvement of quality care. More information about the association is available online at www.acc.org.

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