

**Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction
Members and Key Staff**

Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) – Republican Co-Chair

Jeb Hensarling was first elected to the U.S. House in 2002 and is currently serving his 5th term. He is Chairman of the House Republican Conference, the fourth highest ranking position in the Republican leadership. His previous leadership positions include: Vice Chairman, House Financial Services Committee; Chairman, Republican Study Committee; Member, President Obama's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (Simpson-Bowles); Member, Congressional Oversight Panel for TARP.

Rep. Hensarling is a strong supporter of repealing and replacing the ACA; he cosponsored numerous pieces of legislation to repeal the new health care law (H.R. 4903, H.R. 4919, and H.R. 4972), while cosponsoring other legislation to allow Americans to purchase health insurance across state lines (H.R. 3217) and to enact medical liability reform legislation (H.R. 1086). Rep. Hensarling also defines himself as extremely fiscally conservative. He backed Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's "Path to Prosperity," the Republican budget for FY2012 that included a plan to repeal and defund the ACA, advancing instead "common-sense solutions focused on lowering costs, expanding access and protecting the doctor-patient relationship."

Patty Murray (D-WA) – Democratic Co-Chair

Patty Murray was first elected to the Senate in 1992 and is currently serving her 4th term. She holds numerous leadership positions, including Chair of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and Chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee's Subcommittee on Employment and Workforce Safety. Additionally, she is first in line to replace Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND) as Chair of the Senate Budget Committee when he retires at the end of 2011.

Senator Murray's health care priorities include: expanding access for all Americans; reducing costs while ensuring quality; decreasing long-term costs through treatment and prevention; ensuring access to mental health coverage and services; and supporting landmark research and technological advances to ensure access to the best health care possible.

Dave Camp (R-MI)

Dave Camp was first elected to the U.S. House in 1990, where he is currently serving his 11th term and is Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. He first made his mark in 1996 by playing a crucial role in the passage of the historic welfare reform legislation. He has pushed to move the massive Medicare program towards preventive health care with legislation like the Cholesterol Screening Coverage Act of 2003, and lower tax rates across the board for families and employers. His other health care interests include: use of tax credits to promote the

purchase of health insurance; telemedicine; health savings accounts; access to care through community health centers; and medical liability reform.

Rep. Camp served alongside Rep. Hensarling on President Obama's Debt Commission and they both voted in favor of the "Path to Prosperity," but their views on the budget plan greatly differed. Leading up to the eventual passage of the budget plan, Rep. Camp was vocal in his opposition to Rep. Ryan's "radical, bipartisan" approach to restructuring Medicare. "Frankly, I'm not interested in talking about whether the House is going to pass a bill that the Senate shows no interest in. I'm not interested in laying down more markers," Rep. Camp said.

Fred Upton (R-MI)

Fred Upton served in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Ronald Reagan from 1981-1985 and was first elected to the U.S. House in 1986, where he is currently in his 11th term. In 2010 he was selected to serve as Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over Medicare and Medicaid. One of his top priorities as Chairman is to repeal or defund the ACA in its entirety. Rep. Upton cosponsored the State Flexibility Act of 2011, which was introduced in response to bipartisan requests from governors not to impose the Medicaid Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements on states. The legislation would repeal the three current Medicaid MOE restrictions that are in effect.

Xavier Becerra (D-CA)

Xavier Becerra was first elected to the U.S. House in 1992 and is currently serving his 10th term. He is a member of the Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over Medicare, and serves as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Social Security. Additionally, he holds the leadership position of Vice Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, and in 2010 he served on President Obama's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. He voted against the final report from the Commission, stating that "After carefully reviewing the Chairmen's final report, I have concluded that I cannot support it. But our work can continue because Chairmen Bowles and Simpson have laid before us all many of the elements that, combined with common sense, can lead us to a sound solution to our deep fiscal troubles."

Rep. Becerra's interest in the health care industry is not limited to his political career. His wife is a practicing physician, and he began his legal career in 1984 by working in a legal services office representing the mentally ill.

James Clyburn (D-SC)

James Clyburn was first elected to the U.S. House in 1992 and is currently serving his 10th term. As Assistant Democratic Leader in the 112th Congress, the number three Democrat in the House, he was involved in the debt ceiling talks led by Vice President Joe Biden. Throughout his Congressional career he has championed rural communities supporting the development of regional water projects and community health centers.

Rep. Clyburn has been outspoken in his aversion to Rep. Ryan's Medicare plan. In July 2011, on the 46th anniversary of Medicare, he released a statement that promised to defend the

program: “Today as we debate the financial future of our country, Republicans are again targeting Medicare for cuts. Yet they are not willing to ask the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share to decrease our budget deficits. Democrats will continue our fight to protect the promise of Medicare for our seniors and generations to come.”

Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

Chris Van Hollen was first elected to the U.S. House in 2002 and is currently serving his 5th term. He is Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee, and also joined Rep. Clyburn as a negotiator in Vice President Biden’s debt ceiling talks earlier this year. He has long been recognized for his dedication to improving the nation’s health care system. Some of his accolades include the “Community Health Superhero Award” from the National Association of Community Health Centers for his efforts on behalf of the uninsured and medically underserved Americans, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society’s “Representative of the Year” award.

Upon being appointed to the Deficit Reduction Committee, Rep. Van Hollen released the following statement: “Putting America back to work is the best and most immediate way to reduce our deficit as we also develop and implement a balanced plan to establish long-term fiscal discipline and sustained economic growth. Our plan should put jobs first, sharpen America’s competitive edge, ensure health and retirement security, and require shared responsibility from those who have done so well even during these tough economic times. Together, we can build a prosperous and secure future for all Americans.”

Jon Kyl (R-AZ)

Jon Kyl served in the House of Representatives from 1987 to 1995 and was then elected to the U.S. Senate in 1994, where he is currently serving his 3rd term. He has been the Senate Republican Whip since 2008, and in 2010 he was recognized as one of *Time* magazine’s 100 most influential people in the world. Senator Kyl’s top health care priorities include: long-term comprehensive physician payment reform (concerned about current Medicare physician payment system’s adverse effect on patient access); medical liability reform; Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) expansion; State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization (enroll 1.3 million new children and phase-out adult enrollment); and creation of small business health plans.

Senator Kyl was another member at table during Vice President Biden’s debt ceiling talks. In February 2011, he announced that he is retiring from Congress when his term is up at the end of 2012.

Rob Portman (R-OH)

Rob Portman is a first-term Senator, having just been elected in 2010. He previously served in the U.S. House from 1993-2005, and then in two federal cabinet positions under President George W. Bush: United States Trade Representative (2005-2006), and Director of the Office of Management and Budget (2006-2007). A deficit hawk, he made his mark by proposing a balanced budget, fighting irresponsible earmarks, and putting in place new transparency measures for all federal spending.

Senator Portman is an advocate for repeal-and-replace of the ACA. His proposal for measures that reduce costs and increase competition include: eliminating the barriers to allow small businesses, associations, and other organizations to band together and offer health insurance at lower costs; increasing competition by allowing companies to sell health insurance across state lines; and reducing the mounting cost of defensive medicine by enacting sensible legal reforms and better health information to stop the frivolous lawsuits.

Pat Toomey (R-PA)

Pat Toomey is the second freshman Senator on the Deficit Reduction Committee, having first been elected (with strong support from the Tea Party) in 2010. Previously, he was president of the Club for Growth (2005-2009), a fiscally conservative organization that advocates limited government, lower taxes, a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and medical malpractice and tort reform. He also served in the U.S. House of Representatives (1999-2005).

In May 2011, Senator Toomey released a budget proposal that would turn Medicaid into a block grant program, thus reducing Medicaid spending by \$1.1 trillion over the next 10 years. This is similar to the Medicaid proposal included in Rep. Ryan's "Path to Prosperity," which passed the House in April 2011. However, Senator Toomey's budget plan did not incorporate Rep. Ryan's proposal to change Medicare into a voucher program. Senator Toomey differentiated the two plans by stating that "[Rep. Ryan's] goal is long-term, it's permanent solvency, and he walks through structural reforms that achieve that."

Max Baucus (D-MT)

Max Baucus was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1978 and has served consecutively ever since; he is currently in his 6th term. He serves as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Taxation, and is Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, an influential post he has used to help cut taxes, protect Social Security and Medicare, expand health care programs, and open foreign markets through trade agreements. In 1995 and 1996, he walked the entire 820-mile length of Montana. Also an avid runner, he completed a 50-mile marathon in just over 12 hours in 2003.

Senator Baucus was one of the earliest proponents of health reform legislation, and served as one of the main authors of what eventually became the ACA. His biggest health care interests include: Medicare reform; pay for performance; comparative effectiveness; and the economic implications of health care costs. As a member of President Obama's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (Simpson-Bowles), Senator Baucus was one of the Democrats who voted against the package.

John Kerry (D-MA)

John Kerry was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1984 and is currently serving his 5th term. He sits on the Senate Finance Committee, where he is a member of the Subcommittee on Health. His health care priorities include: ensuring every American has quality health coverage; controlling health costs that push families into bankruptcy and put American businesses at a disadvantage in the global economy; and assuring high quality preventive care.

In January 2009, Senator Kerry introduced the Healthy Businesses, Healthy Workers Reinsurance Act (S. 79), legislation to amend the Social Security Act to establish a Federal Reinsurance Program for Catastrophic Health Care Costs. In May 2011, he introduced the Retiree Health Coverage Protection Act (S. 1088), which would provide an additional \$5 billion to the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program (ERRP) to help them afford health insurance and costly medical expenses. Senator Kerry successfully included the ERRP in the ACA.

Mark Prater

On August 30, Mark Prater was named staff director of the Joint Committee. Previously he served for two decades as the deputy staff director and chief tax counsel for Republicans on the Senate Finance Committee. In the written statement announcing Prater's appointment, Committee Co-Chairs Senator Murray and Representative Hensarling said that Prater "has a well-earned reputation for being a workhorse who members of both parties have relied on...we look forward to working with him and are confident that his approach and expertise will be valuable as we weigh the difficult but necessary choices ahead."

Prater is a 1981 graduate of Portland State University and received his law and master of law degrees in taxation from the University of Florida.

Sarah Kuehl

On September 6, Sarah Kuehl was named deputy staff director of the Joint Committee. Previously she served as the senior analyst for social security and Medicare on the Senate Budget Committee. She also advised Senator Conrad when he served on President Obama's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. Overall, she has more than 13 years of experience in the Senate.

Kuehl graduated with a B.A. in history and public policy from the University of Denver, and went on to receive her M.P.P. from Harvard University Kennedy School of Government in 1998.

Both Prater and Kuehl are known as substantive policy experts. Neither is considered a hard-line partisan. They also have good relationships across the political aisle and with their colleagues in the House of Representatives.