

NOTE: CONGRESSMAN ARTUR DAVIS DROPPED HOUSE RESOLUTION 626 ON FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2009 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. H. RES. 626 URGES MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, WHO ARE ENROLLED IN THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM, TO AUTOMATICALLY BE ENROLLED IN A PUBLIC OPTION SHOULD ONE BE OFFERED IN THE HEALTHCARE BILL AND THAT ANY TAX AMERICANS HAVE TO PAY TO OFFSET THE COST MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SHOULD ALSO BE TAXED, NO MATTER THEIR INCOME LEVEL.

STATEMENT

FROM THE OFFICE OF

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Congressman Artur Davis' statement on House Resolution 626

The following statement was offered by U.S. Representative Artur Davis on H. Res. 626 which was dropped in the House of Representatives on Friday, July 10, 2009:

I am often asked if members of Congress are sensitive to the challenges ordinary Americans face and to the impact of choices made in Washington. In just the last few years alone, members of Congress have claimed to be constitutionally immune from anti-corruption laws that apply to others; our pay has risen every year while the wages of our constituents have been stuck; and our office budgets soar while families and businesses in our districts make deep cutbacks.

Now as Congress debates how to reform our health care system and how to pay for those reforms, the question of double standards for Congress is again on the minds of many Americans—and the question is a good one.

On Friday, I introduced legislation that would apply to members of Congress the same policies and burdens that we are about to lay on our constituents. Specifically, if Congress passes a public plan as an alternative to private health plans, I would require that most congressmen be automatically enrolled in that public plan. (The sole exception would be congressmen who directly purchase their own health insurance and don't rely on the Federal Employees Benefit Plan that routinely services members of Congress). In addition, I would require that if additional income taxes are placed on the income of certain Americans, that members of Congress are subjected to the same taxation, even if their personal income levels would not have otherwise exposed them to higher taxes.

I believe these are reasonable measures that would give my colleagues and myself a personal stake in the health care debate. If our families are affected by the quality of a public option, then Congress will have every incentive to make that option high-quality and workable in every region of the country. In addition, if some Americans are asked to sacrifice during a recession, Congress should be willing to bear the burden of those sacrifices, too.