

For immediate release: Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Contact: Oversight and Government Reform Press Office, 202-225-5051

## **Chairman Towns Denounces Minority Efforts to Stall Health Care Legislation**

Washington, DC – Chairman Edolphus “Ed Towns (D-NY) released the following statement today to refute efforts by Oversight Committee Republicans to spread misinformation about the effects of proposed health care legislation on federal employees.

“As the House prepares to move forward with much-needed improvements to the health care system, Republicans on this committee are attempting to spread false information about H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act and its impact on federal employees.

“Any suggestion that federal employees may be forced out of insurance coverage and subjected to an additional tax is false and has no basis in the text of the bill. Under H.R. 3962, federal employees will remain in their current system, and will also benefit from the same improvements to health insurance plans that all other Americans will enjoy, such as ending copayments for preventative medicine and automatic enrollment. Insurance providers participating in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) will be subject to the same rules and regulations covering all other health insurance plans.

“I am proud to report that the portions of the bill in this Committee’s jurisdiction, the accountability provisions, include stronger language on these issues than the original bill, H.R. 3200, due to the cooperative work of our committee with other committees of jurisdiction.

“Unfortunately, Republicans are more interested in raising baseless concerns about the legislation to scare federal employees, and attempting to delay reform by calling for unnecessary hearings, than they are in offering solutions to fix the health care system.”

###