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## **Chairman Towns' Statement on the Passage of the Affordable Health Care for America Act**

Washington, DC – Chairman Edolphus “Ed Towns (D-NY) issued the following statement after the historic vote in the U.S. House of Representatives to pass H.R. 3962, the “Affordable Health Care for America Act

“I proudly joined my colleagues in passing this monumental legislation that will make health care more affordable and more accessible to all Americans.

“The Affordable Health Care for America Act will have a positive impact on Federal employees and their families. For decades, the Federal health care program has offered a range of affordable choices to employees, retirees, and their families. The Federal community will continue to enjoy these choices, and also benefit from the improvements to the health care system that all other Americans will enjoy.

“I am troubled by the recent premium increases in the Federal Employees Health and Benefits Plan. These cost hikes are consistent with the sky-rocketing cost of health care across the country. Now that we have moved toward controlling these costs, Federal employees, like all Americans, will benefit from more affordable health care coverage.

“In addition, I am pleased that the accountability portions of the bill are stronger because of the work of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. We strengthened the independence and authority of a new Inspector General to audit and investigate potential fraud in the Federal health care system, and ensured transparency for contracts and advisory commissions on health care issues.

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