

**December 24, 2009**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) today released the following statement after the Senate passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590). This bill contains a proposal modeled after the Quality FIRST Act (H.R. 1776), legislation Altmire introduced earlier this year to modernize the current Medicare reimbursement system by tying hospital payments to the quality of care provided, rather than simply the quantity of care provided. For more information on the Quality First Act, please [click here](#) .

**“With the Senate’s passage of its health care bill, we have moved closer to achieving real health care reform.”**

**“When we began this debate earlier this year, I made it clear that my top two priorities were slowing the growth of health care spending and improving quality of care. In the Senate’s health care bill, progress has been made in addressing both of these goals.**

**“The Senate’s health care bill takes steps that will help to slow the growth of health care spending over the long term. I am particularly pleased that this bill includes a provision modeled on legislation I introduced that would reward doctors based on the quality of care, and not simply the quantity of care, they provide. I truly believe that this is one of the keys to lowering health care costs over the long term.”**

**“Now, we must work to combine the House and Senate health care bills into one single bill. As we embark on this process, I am hopeful that we will create a final product that will help to bring down health care costs for American families and businesses.”**