

Montross, Va. – Congressman Rob Wittman (VA-1) released the following statement on the second anniversary of the signing of President Obama’s health care overhaul law:

“In the two years since this monstrous health care overhaul was signed into law, folks across the First District have continued to see their health care costs rise. Rather than bringing common-sense reform to lower the costs of health care, this legislation is increasing the federal government’s intrusiveness in citizens’ lives. It institutes an individual mandate – a requirement for every American to obtain health insurance – which over 70% of our country believes to be unconstitutional, according to a recent Gallup poll. At the same time, a recent analysis by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office showed that this bill could force millions of citizens to lose the employer-provided health plans that they currently enjoy. This is simply unacceptable, as they will then be forced into the government-run insurance exchange. Americans simply cannot afford the devastating effects of this bill nor its trillion dollar price tag. The Obama administration itself has even refrained from enforcing certain provisions of its own bill as it’s become more clear how harmful or ineffective these programs are. This law must be repealed and replaced with common-sense reforms that are conceived in the public sphere, not behind closed doors.

“Health care spending represents an ever-growing portion of this nation’s economy, and it is critical that Congress address health care reform in a serious way. Responsible reform must target the true factors that drive up costs for individuals and must also ensure that doctors and patients, not insurance companies or government bureaucrats, are making important health care decisions. I will continue to work with my constituents and the First Congressional District Health Care Advisory Council to pursue responsible solutions to this nation’s rising healthcare costs.”

Wittman voted against the health care overhaul legislation in 2010 during its consideration by the U.S. House. Since then, Wittman has supported efforts to repeal the legislation so that it can be replaced with other pieces of health care reform legislation. These actions include:

- Cosponsored and voted for H.R. 2, which would repeal the health overhaul law (PPACA), reducing spending by \$2.6 trillion over ten years and reducing the deficit by \$700 billion.
- Cosponsored and voted for H.R. 4, the Comprehensive 1099 Taxpayer Protection and Repayment of Exchange Subsidy Overpayments Act of 2011, repealing the 1099 reporting requirement in the PPACA.
- Cosponsored H.R. 1286, Healthcare Fiscal Accountability Act of 2011, which would repeal

\$105.5 billion in mandatory spending included in the PPACA.

- Voted for H.Res. 9, which instructs the committees of jurisdiction to recommend legislation that expands access and improves affordability of healthcare and health insurance and reforms medical liability insurance.
- Cosponsored and voted for H.R. 5, which repeals the Independent Payment Advisory Board created in the PPACA, and also enacts medical liability reform.

Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He serves on the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Armed Services Committee where he is the Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.