**WASHINGTON, DC** - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence made the following statement today after the independent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) **stated** that Congressional Democrats' health care reform would increase **already rising health care costs:**

**"Today's announcement by the independent CBO confirms what Republicans have been saying all along: the health care proposal by Congressional Democrats amounts to a government takeover of our health care economy that will be paid for by small business owners and working Americans at a time when they can least afford it. Launching a massive new government bureaucracy with higher taxes on individuals and small businesses during the worst recession in a quarter century is a profoundly bad idea."**