

# American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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## **Statement by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka On Health Care 'Poison Pill' Amendments March 23, 2010**

*"A 'NO' on amendments is a 'YES' on health care."*

As senators prepare to take up fixes to the historic legislation passed by the House late Sunday night, they cannot allow process, technicalities, or cynical ploys to derail the legislation. Republicans are going to use a "kitchen sink" amendment strategy, throwing everything they can at the bill to try to sink reform. This will include amendments on issues that we would otherwise strongly support.

Any amendment offered during this process is nothing more than a poison pill. A 'NO' on amendments is a 'YES' on health care.

Working families won't be fooled by dirty tricks from the opponents of health reform out to do the bidding of the insurance companies. And US Senators should not be fooled either. Just as we did in the House, unions will employ all our resources to support Senators in passing the reconciliation package and taking the last step on the path to health care reform for all Americans. We will make sure that constituents of Senators who do the right thing and vote "no" on all amendments know the score about what really goes on in the Senate.

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