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Statement of Congressman Davis:

"I am honored and appreciative of the support of my colleagues in the Congress for their nomination to the Committee on Ways and Means. I want to particularly thank Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the Members of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, Chairman Charles Rangel and Representatives Jan Schakowsky and Jerry Costello for their support and the confidence and trust they have offered."

"The jurisdiction of the Committee includes a number of issues which have long been at the center of my interests and I look forward to focusing with special attention on the issue of health care from both the community and national perspective. I am hopeful that the next years will see significant advancements in our nation's health care system and in the health and well being of our people."

"I have requested a waiver to remain as Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Postal Service and District of Columbia of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I have deeply appreciated the opportunity to serve in that capacity and look forward to the possibility of continuing in that role."

The following summary from the Committee website provides a description of the jurisdiction of the Committee:

(1)
Federal revenue measures generally.--The Committee on Ways and Means has the responsibility for raising the revenue required to finance the Federal Government. This includes individual and corporate income

taxes, excise taxes, estate taxes, gift taxes, and other miscellaneous taxes.

(2) The bonded debt of the United States.--The Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over the authority of the Federal Government to borrow money. Title 31 of Chapter 31 of the U.S. Code authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to conduct any necessary public borrowing subject to a maximum limit on the amount of borrowing outstanding at any one time. This statutory limit on the amount of public debt ("the debt ceiling") currently is \$8.18 trillion. The Committee's jurisdiction also includes conditions under which the U.S. Department of the Treasury manages the Federal debt, such as restrictions on the conditions under which certain debt instruments are sold.

(3) National Social Security programs.--The Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over most of the programs authorized by the Social Security Act, which includes not only those programs that are normally referred to colloquially as "Social Security" but also social insurance programs and a whole series of grant-in-aid programs to State governments for a variety of purposes. The Social Security Act, as amended, contains 21 titles (a few of which have either expired or have been repealed). The principal programs established by the Social Security Act and under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means in the 108th Congress can be outlined as follows:

(a) Old-age, survivors, and disability insurance (Title II)--At present, there are approximately 156 million workers in employment covered by the program, and for calendar year 2003, \$479 billion in benefits were paid to 47 million individuals.

(b) Medicare (Title XVIII)--Provides hospital insurance benefits to 34.9 million persons over the age of 65 and to 6.4 million disabled persons. Voluntary supplementary medical insurance is provided to 33.4 million aged persons and 5.6 million disabled persons. Total program outlays under these programs were \$281 billion in 2003.

(c) Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (Title XVI)--The SSI program was inaugurated in January 1974 under the provisions of P.L. 92-603, as amended. It replaced the former Federal-State programs for the needy aged, blind, and disabled. On average in calendar year 2003, 6.9 million individuals received Federal SSI benefits on a monthly basis. Of these 6.9 million persons, approximately 1.2 million received benefits on the basis of age, and 5.6 million on the basis of blindness or disability. Federal expenditures for cash SSI payments in 2003 totaled \$35.6 billion, while State expenditures for federally administered SSI supplements totaled \$4.9 billion.

(d) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (part A of Title IV)--The TANF program is a block grant of about \$16.5 billion dollars awarded to States to provide income assistance to poor families, to end dependency on welfare benefits, to prevent nonmarital births, and to encourage marriage, among other purposes. TANF also

includes incentive funds for States that achieve overall program goals and additional incentive funds for States that are successful in reducing non-marital births. In most cases, Federal TANF benefits for individuals are limited to 5 years and individuals must work to maintain their eligibility. In March 2004, about 2 million families and 4.8 million individuals received benefits from the TANF program.

(e) Child support enforcement (part D of Title IV)--In fiscal year 2003 Federal administrative expenditures totaled \$5.2 billion for the child support enforcement program. Child support collections for that year totaled \$21.2 billion.

(f) Child welfare, foster care, and adoption assistance (parts B and E of Title IV)--Titles IV B and E provide funds to States for child welfare services for abused and neglected children; foster care for children who meet Aid to Families with Dependent Children eligibility criteria; and adoption assistance for children with special needs. In fiscal year 2003, Federal expenditures for child welfare services totaled \$694 million. Federal expenditures for foster care and adoption assistance were approximately \$6.2 billion.

(g) Unemployment compensation programs (Titles III, IX, and XII)--These titles authorize the Federal-State unemployment compensation program and the permanent extended benefits program. Between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2004, an estimated \$36.1 billion was paid in unemployment compensation, with approximately 8.6 million workers receiving unemployment compensation payments.

(h) Social services (Title XX)--Title XX authorizes the Federal Government to reimburse the States for money spent to provide persons with various services. Generally, the specific services provided are determined by each State. In fiscal year 2004, \$1.7 billion was appropriated. These funds are allocated on the basis of population.

(4) Trade and tariff legislation.--The Committee on Ways and Means has responsibility over legislation relating to tariffs, import trade, and trade negotiations. In the early days of the Republic, tariff and customs receipts were major sources of revenue for the Federal Government. As the Committee with jurisdiction over revenue-raising measures, the Committee on Ways and Means thus evolved as the primary Committee responsible for international trade policy.

The Constitution vests the power to levy tariffs and to regulate international commerce specifically in the Congress as one of its enumerated powers. Any authority to regulate imports or to negotiate trade agreements must therefore be delegated to the executive branch through legislative action. Statutes including the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Acts beginning in 1934, Trade Expansion Act of 1962, Trade Act of 1974, Trade Agreements Act of 1979, Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Implementation Act, Uruguay Round Agreements Act, and Trade Act of 2002 provide the basis for U.S. bargaining with other countries to achieve the mutual reduction of

tariff and nontariff trade barriers under reciprocal trade agreements.

The Committee's jurisdiction includes the following authorities and programs:

(a) The tariff schedules and all tariff preference programs, such as the General System of Preferences and the Caribbean Basin Initiative;

(b) Laws dealing with unfair trade practices, including the antidumping law, countervailing duty law, section 301, and section 337;

(c) Other laws dealing with import trade, including section 201 (escape clause), section 232 national security controls, section 22 agricultural restrictions, international commodity agreements, textile restrictions under section 204, and any other restrictions or sanctions affecting imports;

(d) General and specific trade negotiating authority, as well as implementing authority for trade agreements and the grant of normal-trade-relations (NTR) status;

(e) General and NAFTA-related TAA programs for workers, and TAA for firms;

(f) Customs administration and enforcement, including rules of origin and country-of origin marking, customs classification, customs valuation, customs user fees, and U.S. participation in the World Customs Organization (WCO);

(g) Authorization of the budget for the ITC, the U.S. Customs Service, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).