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**HIGPA APPLAUDS HEALTHCARE GROUP PURCHASING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FORMER REP. ENGLISH, SENS. DORGAN AND BENNETT HAVE JOINED INDUSTRY EFFORT TO FURTHER PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY, ACCESS AND ETHICAL BUSINESS PRACTICES**

*Former Members of Congress Join Industry-Leading Effort to Protect Healthcare Cost Savings Through Transparency and Accountability*

**Washington, D.C. (September 22, 2011)** – The Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA) today applauded the announcement that former Rep. Phil English (R-PA) has assumed the role of Coordinator of the Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative (HGPII), an independent oversight organization that promotes the highest ethical standards and practices in the healthcare group purchasing industry. Former Senators Robert Bennett (R-UT) and Byron Dorgan (D-ND) will also join the HGPII team as senior policy advisors.

“As financial pressure on American hospitals continues to mount and as providers face federal and state-level cuts to Medicare and Medicaid payments, the healthcare cost savings that GPOs provide will be more critical than ever,” said HIGPA President Curtis Rooney. “Transparency and accountability are essential to reducing healthcare costs. HIGPA will continue to work in cooperation with HGPII to further increase price transparency in the healthcare sector, to foster innovation, and to promote access and competition so that hospitals are able to identify and purchase the best products at the best value.”

HGPII is a private, voluntary, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that allows industry competitors to work together to promote best practices to conduct business at the highest ethical level, with accountability to the public and government through transparency. HGPII’s commitment to ethical business practices is safeguarded by peer oversight and an annual review of industry practices as reported by members of the Initiative through their answers to HGPII’s yearly “Public Accountability Questionnaire.” The industry’s responses and comments to the annual review are then examined and evaluated by HGPII’s outside Coordinator, former Rep. Phil English.

“Since its inception, HGPII has played an instrumental role in increasing transparency within the group purchasing industry and providing independent ethical oversight to maintain and improve GPO best practices,” added Rooney. “Healthcare GPOs across the United States continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to transparency by voluntarily enforcing the highest ethical standards in the healthcare sector.”

HGPII consulted with Congress when developing its original guiding principles as well as in the development of its most recent transparency and openness initiatives. In 2010, HGPII adopted two measures to further increase openness and accessibility in contracting: A supplier grievance process to resolve contracting disputes through the American Arbitration Association, and an Independent Advisory Council, made up of leading international business ethicists, to provide independent, third-party oversight of compliance with industry codes of conduct.

For more information on HGPII, please visit [www.healthcaregpoii.com](http://www.healthcaregpoii.com)

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### **About HIGPA**

The Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA) is a broad-based trade association that represents 16 group purchasing organizations, including for-profit and not-for-profit corporations, purchasing groups, associations, multi-hospital systems and healthcare provider alliances. HIGPA's mission is to advocate on behalf of healthcare group purchasing associations, to provide educational opportunities designed to improve efficiencies in the purchase, sale and utilization of all goods and services within the health industry and to promote meaningful dialogue between GPOs. For more information, visit [www.higpa.org](http://www.higpa.org).