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## **Arent Fox to Assist the Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative's (HGPII) Efforts to Promote Transparency and Ethical Business Practices**

*Former US Congressman Phil English Named Initiative Coordinator*

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**WASHINGTON, DC – September 15, 2011** – Arent Fox LLP and the Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative (HGPII) announced today that Arent Fox will assume a significant role in the management of HGPII, as an Arent Fox team led by former US Representative [Phil English](#) takes on the position of Coordinator of the Initiative. The move is designed to enhance HGPII's ongoing efforts to promote the highest ethical standards and practices in the health care group purchasing industry.



“We are very pleased to announce today that HGPII is now working with such a prestigious and well-respected law firm,” said Lee H. Perlman, president of GNYHA Ventures, Inc., which is a member of HGPII. Mr. Perlman, who serves as chairman of the Initiative's Steering Committee added, “Arent Fox's extraordinary capabilities in the areas of health law, government affairs, and ethics will greatly enhance HGPII's ability to fulfill our stated mission to bring even greater transparency to the health care group purchasing industry and, thereby, help lower the costs of high quality health care for all Americans.”

As HGPII's Coordinator, Congressman English, who co-chairs [Arent Fox's Government Relations Practice](#), will be responsible for implementing and building upon the programs and activities of the Initiative. He will serve as HGPII's main outside contact for legislators, policy-makers, health care industry leaders, group purchasing organizations (GPOs), and medical professionals.

“Arent Fox is proud to join with HGPII in advocating the principles and best practices that contribute substantively to quality patient care through supply chain efficiencies,” said Congressman English. “Our firm, working with HGPII, will take a lead role in assessing industry issues and making certain the public and the government has confidence in the integrity of the industry.”

Joining Congressman English in coordinating HGPII's efforts will be two former members of the US Senate currently serving as Senior Policy Advisors at Arent Fox – [Sen. Byron Dorgan](#), Democrat of North Dakota and [Sen. Robert Bennett](#), Republican of Utah.

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“Health care has been an issue of critical importance to me throughout my career in public service, including my years in the US Senate,” said Sen. Bennett. “Accordingly, as a senior policy advisor at Arent Fox, I am very proud to be a part of this initiative so that I can continue to work to help bring affordable health care to every American.”

“Bob Bennett and I have reached across the aisle many times and worked closely on a great number of issues while we served together in the US Senate, and I am excited to work with him, along with our colleague Phil English, on HGPII’s efforts to promote the highest ethical standards and most effective business practices within the health care group purchasing industry,” said Senator Dorgan, who serves with Congressman English as co-chair of the firm’s Government Relations Practice.

Health care group purchasing organizations play a key role in the health care system by negotiating effective and cost-efficient contractual agreements with suppliers of medical products/services for the benefit of multiple health care providers. GPOs aggregate the purchasing needs of their members, including hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical care providers, thereby lowering the purchase costs and reducing the prices at which products and services are provided to patients. The value of GPOs to their members has never been greater as providers face escalating fiscal pressure in the wake of federal and state-level cuts to Medicare and Medicaid payments.

The Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative was created in 2005 by the chief executives of nine group purchasing organizations (GPOs). At HGPII’s founding meeting on May 13, 2005, Initiative members adopted an annual accountability process, which emphasized an unprecedented level of dedication to transparency and public accountability within the industry, and the need to develop an industry-wide standard of ethics and best practices.

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, Arent Fox’s Phil English, who will assess industry compliance with HGPII’s code of ethical conduct and principles. Responses to HGPII’s Public Accountability Questionnaire and the results of the Coordinator’s evaluation and assessment are displayed publicly in full, unedited text on the Initiative’s web site at [www.healthcaregpoii.com](http://www.healthcaregpoii.com).

“Continued transparency and strict adherence to a strong code of ethical conduct in the healthcare group purchasing industry are critical components in controlling health care costs in the United States,” Mr. Perlman said. “Members of the Initiative look forward to working with Arent Fox to ensure the industry continues to promote these values and remains accountable to the public.”

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**About Arent Fox:**

Arent Fox LLP ([www.arentfox.com](http://www.arentfox.com)), with offices Washington, DC, New York, and Los Angeles, is a recognized leader in areas including government relations, health care, intellectual property, real estate, telecommunications, automotive, sports, white collar, international trade, bankruptcy, and complex litigation. With more than 350 lawyers nationwide, Arent Fox has extensive experience in corporate securities, financial restructuring, labor and employment, finance, tax, corporate compliance, and the global business market. The firm represents *Fortune 500* companies, government agencies, trade associations, foreign governments, and other entities.

**About HGPII:**

The Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative (HGPII) is an association of group purchasing organizations from throughout the United States. HGPII is committed to promoting best ethical and business practices in the group purchasing industry. HGPII's current member organizations are: Amerinet, Inc., CHCA, GNYHA Ventures, Inc., HealthTrust Purchasing Group, HPS, Innovatix, MedAssets, Medbuy, Novation, Premier Inc., and Yankee Alliance.