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Former Rep. Phil English and Former Sens. Byron Dorgan and Robert Bennett Hold Capitol Hill Briefing on Annual Review of Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry

Washington, DC – On December 16, the coordinators of the Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative ([HGPII](#)) outlined the findings of their annual report on business practices within the healthcare group purchasing (GPO) sector to an audience of key healthcare policymakers and stakeholders at a briefing in the United States Capitol. Former Representative Philip English (R-PA) and former Senators Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and Robert Bennett (R-UT) serve as co-coordinators of HGPII and presented the results of their in-depth research and objective assessment of the ethical business practices in the healthcare supply chain.

“It’s fairly clear that GPOs have taken enormous strides to promote high ethical standards and transparency within the healthcare supply chain and to hold themselves accountable for producing both quality and cost savings for the consuming public,” said HGPII National Coordinator and former Representative Philip English. “The members of our Initiative have committed to adhering to the highest possible industry standards, and in the process, contributing to real efficiencies in the healthcare system.

“This report is the most detailed and comprehensive that the Initiative has ever produced and provides all stakeholders with a real window on how decisions are made and how economies can be achieved in this critical sector,” said English. “GPOs play a crucial role in the purchasing and strategic investment decisions of healthcare providers in virtually every community, and consumers have a right to know that these decisions are being made and implemented in a manner beneficial to the public.”

HGPII is an independent, voluntary organization that was founded in 2005 as a non-profit organization by the chief executives of healthcare GPOs who thought the industry should do more collectively to demonstrate a strong commitment to ethical values. HGPII promotes the development and improvement of accountability standards, business practices, and ethics to its customers, vendors, and the public to help create higher industry standards for quality and value.

For the last eight years, HGPII members have submitted to an annual, independent review of individual company business practices. In 2011, former members English, Dorgan, and Bennett began to oversee the HGPII review. This year’s annual report expands on the co-coordinators continued involvement in reviewing and monitoring industry best practices and determined that participating GPOs:

- restricted and fully disclosed administrative fees;
- enforced policies on conflicts of interest;
- applied high standards in their internal bidding and awards process;

- promoted the evaluation and use of innovative technology; and
- required their employees to submit to strong ethics training regimes.

“HGPII members have participated in a rigorous proactive review of their business practices as well as ethical and compliance standards and remain dedicated to the mission of sound business practices, transparency, and delivering high quality and cost-effective healthcare products and services to customers,” said HGPII Co-Coordinator and former Senator Byron Dorgan.

“The HGPII model is based on a fair, open, and competitive contracting process that is free of conflicts of interest and any undue influence,” said HGPII Co-Coordinator and former Senator Robert Bennett.

“HGPII member GPOs have pledged to continue to promote best practices and inspire ethical conduct by both word and actions. Meeting these standards will require full transparency of business conduct practices with vendors and healthcare providers with whom they contract.”

To review the full findings of the HGPII report, please visit: www.healthcaregpoi.com.

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Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative

Founded in 2005, the Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative ([HGPII](http://www.healthcaregpoi.com)) is an organization that promotes and monitors the best ethical and business practices in purchasing for hospitals and other healthcare providers. The goal of the Initiative is to assure ongoing adherence to ethical conduct and business practices, and to hold the confidence of the public and the government in the integrity of the GPO industry. Each GPO has committed to the Initiative at the highest level and adheres to a strict code of ethical conduct. The governing body of the Initiative is comprised of the founding GPO Chief Executive Officers, who serve as a Steering Committee to set the Initiative’s policies and programs.