

## Alert for OPEDA Members

**Please write your Senators and/or Congressmen and ask them to make additional changes to the H . R. 3590 dated 12/24/09, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.**

1. The **Senate** version of H. R. 3590 dated 12/24/09, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, includes language that any new national health care programs will be isolated from the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) into a separate group – and treated separately from FEHBP as a separate program. The House Bill of 11/19/09 does not contain this language. **Accordingly, OPEDA supports the current Senate (but not the House) version of this legislation – with the following needed changes:**
2. Additional language needs to be added to the **Senate** version of this legislation to exempt Federal employees and retirees from the 40% excise tax on Health insurance as was done for certain bargaining union and state and local employees from 2013 until 2018. Should the current 12/24/09 Senate version of this legislation be passed into law, many Federal employees and retirees could be required to pay an additional **40% in excise taxes** on their FEHBP plans exceeding \$8,900 or family policies worth \$24,000 starting in 2013. All FEHBP plans are currently are below these threshold amounts; however, if the Government contribution to each FEHBP plan is included, during 2013-2018, as a result of the rapidly increasing cost of Health Insurance (which far exceeds inflation), it is likely that some of the FEHBP plans will exceed these thresholds and be subject to the 40% excise tax.

**To help protect the interests of Federal Employees and Retirees, all OPEDA members are encouraged to write to their Senators and/or Congressmen and ask them to make and support the above described changes to H . R. 3590 dated 12/24/09, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. OPEDA Members can find the names and mailing addresses (or E-mail addresses) of their Senators and Congressmen at the following web sites.**

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml> ,  
[www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm) .

Members may also contact the OPEDA office at 202-720-4898 if they need assistance contacting their elected representatives.