

**Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey**  
**State of Tennessee**



**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 31, 2010

Contact: Lance Frizzell

Phone: (615) 741-4524

---

**Lt. Governor Ramsey applauds House action to  
protect Health Freedom for Tennesseans**  
*Bill would protect Tennesseans from federal action*

(Nashville) – **Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey (R-Blountville)** today praised a House subcommittee for approving Senate passed legislation which protects the freedom of Tennesseans to make their own health care choices. The Tennessee Health Freedom Act would protect a citizen’s right to not participate in a healthcare system and would prohibit the federal government from imposing fines on that person’s decision. The move comes one day after President Obama signed an “adjusted” version of the federal health bill he signed last week which would punish those who choose not to purchase a government-approved health plan.

“I am very pleased some of my House colleagues have joined the Senate in saying ‘No’ to the effort to take away control of our own medical affairs,” said Lt. Governor Ramsey. “The federal government must be reined in and the fight against this unconstitutional legislation is crucial. Never before has the federal government forced a private citizen to enter into a contract with a private company. This is the first step in pushing back against an overreaching Congress and President.”

The legislation would still allow individuals the option to participate in a federal program. The bill, which will be heard next Tuesday, April 6 in the House Commerce Committee, acknowledges the right of Tennesseans to refuse to participate in a government-run health insurance program. It also calls on the state’s Attorney General to take action in the defense or prosecution of rights protected under the legislation.

On the web:

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/senate/members/s2.html>

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/106/Bill/SB3498.pdf>

###