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DECEMBER 24, 2009

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**SEARAC APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF SENATE HEALTH CARE REFORM
PROPOSAL, URGES CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO FIND A
COMPROMISE SOLUTION QUICKLY**

Washington, DC – Early Thursday morning, after months of debate and negotiations, the United States Senate passed the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (H.R. 3590) by a 60-39 vote.

The Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) applauds the Senate for moving forward on legislation that seeks to increase access to affordable health insurance, protect consumers, and curtail the rising cost of health care in America. As an organization that serves refugee communities who suffer from the lack of affordable care and culturally competent delivery methods, SEARAC believes that health care reform will help families receive the care they desperately need.

Moving forward, SEARAC strongly urges the House and Senate conference committee to quickly reach a compromised solution that will adequately provide access to care for all Americans. In particular, SEARAC believes that the conference committee should consider provisions in both versions of the bill that provide immigrants with fair and equal access to services and consumer protections. SEARAC also believes that the conference committee must continue to explore plans that help more Americans gain coverage.

Doua Thor, SEARAC's Executive Director states that, "For too long, far too many people living in America have not had access to the quality health care they deserve. As Congress is on the brink of making history in conference committee, they should continue to demonstrate courage in protecting the most vulnerable."

SEARAC is committed to working with members of Congress and the community to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable and comprehensive health care.

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