Chris Dodd

U.S. SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT

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DODD JOINS CONGRESSIONAL PRIVACY CAUCUS

Members Set Agenda and Address Priorities for the 107th Congress

Washington, D.C. – Senator Chris Dodd, D-Conn, who has authored past legislation to protect the privacy of financial, medical, and genetic information, was today named a Co-Chairman of the Congressional Privacy Caucus.

"Just as consumers lock their homes' doors and windows–we ought to put a deadbolt on financial, medical, and other personal information to protect basic privacy," Dodd said. "This caucus can be critically important in helping protect the privacy rights of all Americans."

The Privacy Caucus is a bipartisan, bicameral effort to educate members of Congress on matters of individual privacy, consent, and protection from unauthorized access to personal records, as well as privacy protections on the Internet. Caucus Members will hold forums and discussion panels to address privacy issues.

Some of the basic concerns regarding individual privacy protections that will guide the Caucus' agenda will be the right of an individual to access and correct the information held about them by a company or government agency; the requirement of consent from an individual to use or disclose their information for any purpose other than for which the information was given; and the assurance that federal privacy protections will not preempt state laws or regulations that provide stronger protections.

Dodd and the other Caucus Co-Chairs, Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., and Rep. Joe Barton, R-Tex., outlined their priorities for the 107th Congress and previewed some of the issues to be addressed by the Caucus at a press conference in the Capitol. Dodd is a senior member of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a senior member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

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