



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Podesta Group Bolsters Health Care and Education Practices**

*Former Senate HELP Committee policy director Stephen J. Northrup joins public affairs firm as senior strategist*

Stephen J. Northrup, former health advisor to Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY), has joined the Podesta Group, Kimberley Fritts, the firm's Chief Executive Officer, announced today. As a principal, he will provide the Podesta Group's health care and education clients with strategic guidance for outreach to the Congress and Obama Administration.

"Steve will utilize his insider's perspective as he works with health care and education, two issues that are at the foreground of the political scene today," Fritts said. "Podesta's clients will benefit from his extensive experience advocating for legislation as well as crafting it."

As the debate over health care legislation continues in the Congress and the executive branch, Steve will strengthen the firm's expert health practice, drawing upon his more than twenty years of experience working with these issues at the community, state and federal levels.

Steve was the top health policy staffer to Sen. Enzi from 2003 to 2006, serving as the health policy director to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions during Sen. Enzi's tenure as chairman. Steve played a key role in writing into law 19 different health care bills under the committee's jurisdiction, including bills related to medical device user fees, biodefense preparedness, health insurance reform and electronic medical records. He also handled Medicare issues for Sen. Enzi, helping him draft and pass amendments to the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003.

Immediately prior to joining the Podesta Group, Steve was vice president of federal affairs at WellPoint, Inc., where he led the health benefits company's advocacy efforts before the Congress and executive branch. Prior to his service on Capitol Hill, Steve was executive director of the Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA), the national voice for the entrepreneurial sector of the medical device industry, where he was a nationally recognized spokesman for the medical device industry.

Steve came to MDMA from Loyola University Medical Center in Illinois, where he held the position of director of government and community relations. Steve has also worked as a legislative analyst for the Washington-based Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and Williams & Jensen, P.C., a Washington law firm with an extensive legislative practice.

Steve earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, and his Master of Public Administration degree from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

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*The Podesta Group is a bipartisan government relations and public relations firm located in Washington, DC. Clients include Google, Walmart, BP, Textron, National Confectioners Association, Genzyme and Novo Nordisk.*