

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1903

To establish a demonstration grant program to assist States in providing subsidies for group health insurance premiums for low-income, Medicaid-eligible individuals.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To establish a demonstration grant program to assist States in providing subsidies for group health insurance premiums for low-income, Medicaid-eligible individuals.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Making Health Care  
5 Available for Low-Income Workers Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. WORKING POOR HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM**  
7 **SUBSIDY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
9 Human Services shall provide grants to States for dem-

1 onstration programs under which payments are made to  
2 reduce the premiums for health benefits coverage under  
3 group health plans for individuals—

4 (1) who are eligible for benefits under a State's  
5 medicaid program (or, at the option of a State, who  
6 would be so eligible but for their eligibility or cov-  
7 erage under a group health plan); and

8 (2) whose income does not exceed 185 percent  
9 of the income official poverty line (as defined by the  
10 Office of Management and Budget, and revised an-  
11 nually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Om-  
12 nibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981) applicable  
13 to a family of the size involved.

14 (b) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a grant to  
15 a State under this section may not exceed 50 percent of  
16 the premiums for health benefits coverage under a group  
17 health plan for which coverage is provided under the dem-  
18 onstration program for eligible low-income workers de-  
19 scribed in subsection (a). Of the amount so provided—

20 (1) the amount shall first be used to reduce the  
21 employee share (if any) of any premiums; and

22 (2) the remainder (if any) shall be used to re-  
23 duce the employer's cost of providing the coverage.

24 (c) PREFERENCE.—In carrying out this section, the  
25 Secretary shall provide preference for States that have in-

1 creased the income eligibility threshold under the medicaid  
2 program.

3 (d) APPLICATIONS, ETC.—No grant shall be made to  
4 a State under this section unless the Secretary has ap-  
5 proved an application by the State that meets such condi-  
6 tions as the Secretary establishes.

7 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after funding  
8 is first made available to States under this section, the  
9 Secretary shall submit a report to Congress on the success  
10 of such grants under this section and shall include in the  
11 report such recommendations as the Secretary deems ap-  
12 propriate.

13 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
14 are authorized to be appropriated for grants under this  
15 section \$30,000,000 for the 5-fiscal-year period beginning  
16 with fiscal year 2002. Amounts appropriated under this  
17 subsection shall be available for obligation without fiscal  
18 year limitation through the end of such period.

19 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

20 (1) GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—The term “group  
21 health plan” has the meaning given such term in  
22 section 2791(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act  
23 (42 U.S.C. 300gg–91(a)(1)).

1           (2) MEDICAID PROGRAM.—The term “medicaid  
2           program” means a State plan established under title  
3           XIX of the Social Security Act.

4           (3) PREMIUM.—The term “premium” includes,  
5           with respect to a group health plan, the cost of pro-  
6           viding coverage under the plan, including the cost to  
7           employees of such coverage.

8           (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
9           the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

10          (5) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-  
11          ing given such term for purposes of the medicaid  
12          program.

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