

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2947

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MURTHA, and Mr. FROST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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 2003”.

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

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
4 Human Services shall provide grants to States for dem-
5 onstration programs under which payments are made to
6 reduce the premiums for health benefits coverage under
7 group health plans for individuals—

8 (1) who are eligible for benefits under a State’s
9 medicaid program (or, at the option of a State, who
10 would be so eligible but for their eligibility or cov-
11 erage under a group health plan); and

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

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

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

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

3 (c) PREFERENCE.—In carrying out this section, the
4 Secretary shall provide preference for States that have in-
5 creased the income eligibility threshold under the medicaid
6 program.

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

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

17 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated for grants under this
19 section \$30,000,000 for the 5-fiscal-year period beginning
20 with fiscal year 2004. Amounts appropriated under this
21 subsection shall be available for obligation without fiscal
22 year limitation through the end of such period.

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

24 (1) GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—The term “group
25 health plan” has the meaning given such term in

1 section 2791(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act
2 (42 U.S.C. 300gg-91(a)(1)).

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

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

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

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

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