

after the date of enactment of this Act, the chairperson of the Commission shall publish in the Federal Register final recommendations that reflect input from each interested party, including providers and suppliers, insurance companies, and health benefits management concerns using a process similar to the process used for developing standards under section 1172(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d-1(c)).

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the final recommendations to be published under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall—

(i) make every effort to design system specifications that are flexible, scalable, and performance-based; and

(ii) ensure that strict security measures—

(I) guard system integrity;

(II) protect the privacy of patients and the confidentiality of personally identifiable health insurance data used or maintained under the system; and

(III) apply to any network service provider used in connection with the system.

(b) TIMETABLE.—The timetable set forth under this subsection is as follows:

(1) INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the system shall support—

(A) 50 percent of queries regarding coverage determinations;

(B) 30 percent of determinations regarding incomplete or invalid claims; and

(C) immediate processing at the point of care of 40 percent of clean claims submitted by providers and suppliers under part B of the medicare program.

(2) INTERMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the system shall support—

(A) 70 percent of queries regarding coverage determinations;

(B) 50 percent of determinations regarding incomplete or invalid claims; and

(C) immediate processing at the point of care of 60 percent of clean claims submitted by providers and suppliers under part B of the medicare program.

(3) FULL IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the system shall support—

(A) 90 percent of queries regarding coverage determinations;

(B) 60 percent of determinations regarding incomplete or invalid claims; and

(C) immediate processing at the point of care of 40 percent of the total number of claims submitted by providers and suppliers under part B of the medicare program.

SEC. 5. APPLICATION OF ADVANCED INFORMATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO THE FEHBP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Personnel Management (in this section referred to as the "Office") shall—

(1) adapt the immediate claim, administration, payment resolution, and data collection system established under section 3 (in this section referred to as the "system") for use under the Federal employees health benefits program under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) require that carriers (as defined in section 8901(7) of such Code) participating in such program use the system to satisfy certain minimum requirements for claim submission, processing, and payment in accordance with the timetable set forth in subsection (b).

(b) TIMETABLE.—The timetable set forth in this subsection is as follows:

(1) INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office shall require that carriers use the system to process not less than—

(A) 50 percent of queries regarding coverage determinations;

(B) 30 percent of determinations of incomplete or invalid claims; and

(C) immediate processing at the point of care of 10 percent of the total number of claims.

(2) INTERMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office shall require that carriers use the system to support not less than—

(A) 70 percent of queries regarding coverage determinations;

(B) 50 percent of determinations regarding incomplete or invalid claims; and

(C) immediate processing at the point of care of 20 percent of the total number of claims.

(3) FULL IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office shall require that carriers use the system to support not less than—

(A) 90 percent of queries regarding coverage determinations;

(B) 60 percent of determinations of incomplete or invalid claims; and

(C) immediate processing of 35 percent of the total number of claims.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are appropriated to the Health Care Infrastructure Commission established under section 3, out of any funds in the Treasury that are not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Any sums appropriated under subsection (a) shall remain available until the termination of the Health Care Infrastructure Commission under section 3(h).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) has 18 minutes remaining.

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I just point out that my colleague from California has been a stalwart in working on matters of health concern for his constituents and in particular has been very strong on supporting a Patient's Bill of Rights. I appreciate his work and effort in that very much.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all Members to refrain from references to individual Senators.

EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I start today by talking about the person whose name I carry and the reason I have such a long name on the board. That name is MILLENDER, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. It is because of my father, Reverend Shelly Millender, who taught us that education is important, that we must have a quality education in order to challenge the world that would be before us. And so, Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise with several of my colleagues to discuss the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act known to us as ESEA.

This act is an act that is of immense importance to our children and the future of our Nation. The education of our Nation's children is an issue of paramount concern. As Members of the House of Representatives, it is imperative that we remain focused on our national priorities of raising standards and providing special assistance to children in need to ensure that all students are prepared to face the challenges of the 21st century. Globalization has brought us into a more competitive world where the challenges of technology will dominate the economic relations among world nations. If all of our children are not prepared to face these challenges, our great country will not continue to lead the world in the vital areas of economy and technology, and also in the critical areas of democracy and political participation.

We must, Mr. Speaker, guarantee quality school facilities, quality teachers, smaller classroom sizes and gender equity in technology so that all of our children, both boys and girls, are able to face these new challenges.

I stand with some of my Members who are on the floor today as we recognize America's teachers. As a former teacher, I know the importance of teachers and their leadership to the classroom, but more importantly their leadership for the future, for our future, America's future because they are guiding our children who will be the leaders of tomorrow. Some of them will be the Members of Congress. Therefore, we must instill in them not only the moral standards, character building, but also quality education, quality education that comes from good teachers. I stand today in that salute and recognize the importance of teachers in this whole process.

In the 106th Congress, the authorization of Federal aid to many education programs covered under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act known as ESEA is expiring. These bills have passed through the House in a piecemeal approach to reauthorizing major ESEA programs. It is expected that the final piece of the ESEA puzzle, H.R. 4141, will be coming to the floor soon. H.R. 4141, the Education Opportunity to Protect and Invest in Our Nation's Students Act, also known as the OPTIONS Act, amends ESEA programs regarding education technology which is part of title III, the safe and drug-free schools and communities that is couched within this title III. It also amends title IV, and the education block grant which is title V.

I am deeply concerned, however, Mr. Speaker, with title I of H.R. 4141, entitled the transferability. Transferability is essentially a backdoor block grant program which would allow Federal funds intended to target technology, teacher training, school safety and after-school care needs to be used for any purpose deemed educational regardless of its relevance to the core mission.