

also conduct such an audit with respect to an exemption covered by such notification.

“(f) MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS.—In this section, the term ‘mental health benefits’ means benefits with respect to mental health services (including substance use disorder treatment) as defined under the terms of the group health plan or coverage, and when applicable as may be defined under State law when applicable to health insurance coverage offered in connection with a group health plan.”.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of this Act shall apply to group health plans (or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such plans) beginning in the first plan year that begins on or after January 1 of the first calendar year that begins more than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) TERMINATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—

(1) ERISA.—Section 712 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1185a) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f) SUNSET.—This section shall not apply to benefits for services furnished after the effective date described in section 3(a) of the Mental Health Parity Act of 2007.”.

(2) PHSA.—Section 2705 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-5) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f) SUNSET.—This section shall not apply to benefits for services furnished after the effective date described in section 3(a) of the Mental Health Parity Act of 2007.”.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) GROUP HEALTH PLAN OMBUDSMAN.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.—The Secretary of Labor shall designate an individual within the Department of Labor to serve as the group health plan ombudsman for the Department. Such ombudsman shall serve as an initial point of contact to permit individuals to obtain information and provide assistance concerning coverage of mental health services under group health plans in accordance with this Act.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall designate an individual within the Department of Health and Human Services to serve as the group health plan ombudsman for the Department. Such ombudsman shall serve as an initial point of contact to permit individuals to obtain information and provide assistance concerning coverage of mental health services under health insurance coverage issued in connection with group health plans in accordance with this Act.

(b) AUDITS.—The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall each provide for the conduct of random audits of group health plans (and health insurance coverage offered in connection with such plans) to ensure that such plans are in compliance with this Act (and the amendments made by this Act).

(c) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General shall conduct a study that evaluates the effect of the implementation of the amendments made by this Act on the cost of health insurance coverage, access to health insurance coverage (including the availability of in-network providers), the quality of health care, the impact on benefits and coverage for mental health and substance use disorders, the impact of any additional cost or savings to the plan, the impact on out-of-network coverage for mental health benefits (including substance use disorder treatment), the

impact on State mental health benefit mandate laws, other impact on the business community and the Federal Government, and other issues as determined appropriate by the Comptroller General.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall jointly promulgate final regulations to carry out this Act.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks.

The hearing will be held on September 27, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing will be to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 128, to amend the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act to designate a new management entity, make certain technical and conforming amendments, enhance private property protections, and for other purposes; S. 148, to establish the Paterson Great Falls National Park in the State of New Jersey, and for other purposes; S. 189, to decrease the matching funds requirement and authorize additional appropriations for Keweenaw National Historical Park in the State of Michigan; S. 697, to establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site in the State of Pennsylvania; S. 867, to adjust the boundary of Lowell National Historical Park, and for other purposes; S. 1341, to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, and for other purposes; S. 1476, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Modoc County, California, to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Park System; S. 1709 and H.R. 1239, to amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional staff and oversight of funds to carry out the Act, and for other purposes; S. 1808, to authorize the exchange of certain land in Denali National Park in the State of Alaska; S. 1969, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating Estate Grange and other sites related to Alexander Hamilton's life on the island of St. Croix in the United States Virgin Islands as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify

by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact David Brooks at (202) 224-9863 or Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224-0883.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 18, 2007, at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The hearing will focus on the National Football League Retirement System and the current compensation system for NFL retirees with claims of advanced injuries that became symptomatic after retiring from the NFL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 18, 2007, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on “Breaking the Methamphetamine Supply Chain: Meeting Challenges at the Border.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 18, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a nomination hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing entitled “Examining Approaches to Corporate Fraud Prosecutions and the Attorney-Client Privilege Under the McNulty Memorandum” on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 10:30 a.m., in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, room 226.

Witness list

Panel I: Karin Immergut, United States Attorney, District of Oregon, U.S. Department of Justice, Chair; and White Collar Subcommittee for the Attorney General's Advisory Committee, Portland, Oregon.

Panel II: Dick Thornburgh, Of Counsel, K&L Gates, Washington, DC; Daniel Richman, Professor, Columbia Law