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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.

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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Making Health Care Available for Low-Income Workers Act of 2001''.

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

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

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

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

(2) whose income does not exceed 185 percent of the income official poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981) applicable to a family of the size involved.

(b) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a grant to a State under this section may not exceed 50 percent of the premiums for health benefits coverage under a group health plan for which coverage is provided under the demonstration program for eligible low-income workers described in subsection (a). Of the amount so provided—

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

(2) the remainder (if any) shall be used to reduce the employer's cost of providing the coverage.

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

creased the income eligibility threshold under the medicaid program.

(d) APPLICATIONS, ETC.—No grant shall be made to a State under this section unless the Secretary has approved an application by the State that meets such conditions as the Secretary establishes.

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

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

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

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

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

(3) PREMIUM.—The term ''premium'' includes, with respect to a group health plan, the cost of providing coverage under the plan, including the cost to employees of such coverage.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(5) STATE.—The term ''State'' has the meaning given such term for purposes of the medicaid program.

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