

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4499

To amend title 5, United States Code, to make available under the health benefits program for Federal employees the option of obtaining coverage for self and children only, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 1998

Mr. SABO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to make available under the health benefits program for Federal employees the option of obtaining coverage for self and children only, and for other purposes.

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. OPTION TO ELECT COVERAGE FOR SELF AND**
4 **UNMARRIED DEPENDENT CHILDREN.**

5 Subsection (a) of section 8905 of title 5, United
6 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 “(a) An employee may enroll in an approved health
 2 benefits plan described by section 8903 or 8903a of this
 3 title either—

4 “(1) as an individual;

5 “(2) for self and family; or

6 “(3) for self and children only.

7 Coverage described in paragraph (3) includes neither the
 8 spouse of the enrollee (if any) nor any child who does not
 9 satisfy section 8901(5).”.

10 **SEC. 2. CONTRIBUTIONS AND RATES.**

11 (a) CONTRIBUTIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section
 13 8906(a) of title 5, United States Code, as set forth
 14 in the amendment made by section 7002(a) of the
 15 Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–33;
 16 111 Stat. 662), is amended—

17 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
 18 paragraph (A);

19 (B) by striking the period at the end of
 20 subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”; and

21 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
 22 the following:

23 “(C) enrollments under this chapter for self and
 24 unmarried dependent children (consistent with sec-
 25 tion 8902(p)(1)).”.

1 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
2 by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if included in
3 the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

4 (b) SEPARATE RATES BASED ON NUMBER OF CHIL-
5 DREN, ETC.—Section 8902 of title 5, United States Code,
6 is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(p) Rates charged by health benefits plans for cov-
8 erage described in section 8905(a)(3) shall be governed
9 by the provisions of subsection (i), except that—

10 “(1) separate rates shall apply depending on
11 whether the total number of unmarried dependent
12 children is equal to 1, 2, or 3 or more; and

13 “(2) for purposes of setting such rates for the
14 first contract year in which such coverage is offered,
15 such provisions shall be applied by substituting
16 ‘large employers for coverage for self and unmarried
17 dependent children.’ for ‘large employers.’.”

18 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATIVE COVERAGE AND CHANGES OF COV-**
19 **ERAGE.**

20 (a) DUPLICATIVE COVERAGE.—Subsection (d) of sec-
21 tion 8905 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by
22 adding at the end the following: “The Office shall by regu-
23 lation ensure that, in any situation not otherwise covered
24 by this subsection, if an employee or annuitant enrolls ei-
25 ther for self and family or for self and children only, the

1 spouse of such employee or annuitant shall not be eligible
 2 for any enrollment that would result in the same person
 3 being covered under both enrollments at the same time.”.

4 (b) CHANGES OF COVERAGE.—Subsection (e) of sec-
 5 tion 8905 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by
 6 inserting “or that of himself and his unmarried dependent
 7 children” after “or that of himself and members of his
 8 family”.

9 **SEC. 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**

10 Section 8905(c) of title 5, United States Code, is
 11 amended by striking “self and family” each place it ap-
 12 pears and inserting “for self and children only”.

13 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Personnel Manage-
 15 ment shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure
 16 that the type of coverage provided for by this Act shall
 17 be available by the beginning of the first contract year
 18 beginning at least 6 months after the date of enactment
 19 of this Act.

20 (b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—For any contract year pre-
 21 ceding the first contract year referred to in subsection (a),
 22 chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, shall be applied
 23 as if this Act had not been enacted.

○