

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 579

To amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make available to Federal employees the option of obtaining health benefits coverage for dependent parents.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2001

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. THOMAS M. DAVIS of Virginia, Mrs. McCARTHY of New York, Mr. WINER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. HILLIARD, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

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## A BILL

To amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make available to Federal employees the option of obtaining health benefits coverage for dependent parents.

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 “Federal Family Health  
5       Coverage Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. NEW ENROLLMENT OPTION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 8905 of  
3 title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

4 “(a) An employee may enroll in an approved health  
5 benefits plan described by section 8903 or 8903a either—

6 “(1) as an individual;

7 “(2) for self and family; or

8 “(3) for self and extended family.”.

9 (b) MEMBER OF EXTENDED FAMILY DEFINED.—

10 Section 8901 of title 5, United States Code, is amended  
11 by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (10), by strik-  
12 ing the period at the end of paragraph (11) and inserting  
13 “; and”, and by adding at the end the following:

14 “(12) ‘member of the extended family’ means,  
15 with respect to an employee or annuitant, any indi-  
16 vidual who is—

17 “(A) a member of the family of such em-  
18 ployee or annuitant; or

19 “(B) a dependent parent of such employee  
20 or annuitant.”.

21 (c) TEST FOR DEPENDENCY OF A PARENT.—Para-  
22 graph (9) of section 8901 of title 5, United States Code,  
23 is amended by striking “(9)” and inserting “(9)(A)”, by  
24 inserting “and” after the semicolon, and by adding at the  
25 end the following:

1           “(B) ‘dependent’, in the case of any parent,  
2       means a parent at least half of whose support is  
3       contributed by the employee or annuitant involved,  
4       as determined under regulations prescribed by the  
5       Office, but does not include an individual who—

6           “(i) is entitled to benefits under part A of  
7       title XVIII of the Social Security Act; or  
8           “(ii) has adequate health benefits under  
9       another group health plan, as determined under  
10       such regulations;”.

11 **SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS.**

13       (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (1) of section 8906(a)  
14 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

15           (1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A);

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

19           (3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

21           “(C) enrollments under this chapter for self and  
22       extended family.”.

23       (b) **FIRST-YEAR RULE.**—The Office of Personnel  
24 Management shall by regulation establish the method by  
25 which the provisions of section 8906 of title 5, United

1 States Code, relating to computation of Government con-  
2 tributions, shall be applied in connection with coverage for  
3 self and extended family during the first year in which  
4 such coverage is provided.

**5 SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

6 Title 5, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in section 8902(e) by striking “exclusive of  
8 family members,” and inserting “exclusive of family  
9 members and dependent parents,”;

10 (2) in subsections (g), (j) and (k)(1) of section  
11 8902, section 8902a(a)(1)(B), and section 8903(1)  
12 by inserting “dependent parent,” after “family mem-  
13 ber,” each place it appears;

14 (3)(A) in section 8903(1) and the first sentence  
15 of section 8913(c) by inserting “dependent parents,”  
16 after “members of their families,”;

17 (B) in section 8903(3) by striking “and mem-  
18 bers of their families,” and inserting “members of  
19 their families, and their dependent parents,”; and

20 (C) in section 8903a(b)(4) by striking “fami-  
21 lies.” and inserting “families and their dependent  
22 parents.”;

23 (4) in subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 8905  
24 by inserting “or extended family” after “family”;

## 12 SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

13 The amendments made by this Act shall apply with  
14 respect to coverage during years beginning at least 6  
15 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

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