

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1877

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Government Reform

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. NEW ENROLLMENT OPTION.**

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

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

8 “(1) as an individual;

9 “(2) for self and family; or

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

2 (b) MEMBER OF EXTENDED FAMILY DEFINED.—

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

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

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

12 “(B) a dependent parent of such employee
13 or annuitant.”.

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

19 “(B) ‘dependent’, in the case of any parent,
20 means a parent who is at least 55 years of age at
21 the time of enrollment and who satisfies such other
22 tests of dependency as the Office shall by regulation
23 prescribe based on section 152 of the Internal Rev-
24 enue Code of 1986, but does not include an indi-
25 vidual who—

1 “(i) is entitled to benefits under part A of
2 title XVIII of the Social Security Act; or

3 “(ii) has adequate health benefits under
4 another group health plan, as determined under
5 such regulations;”.

6 **SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF GOVERNMENT CONTRIBU-**
7 **TIONS.**

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

10 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
11 graph (A);

12 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
13 paragraph (B) and inserting “; and”; and

14 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(C) enrollments under this chapter for self and
17 extended family.”.

18 (b) FIRST-YEAR RULE.—The Office of Personnel
19 Management shall by regulation establish the method by
20 which the provisions of section 8906 of title 5, United
21 States Code, relating to computation of Government con-
22 tributions, shall be applied in connection with coverage for
23 self and extended family during the first year in which
24 such coverage is provided.

1 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

2 Title 5, United States Code, is amended—

3 (1) in section 8902(e) by striking “exclusive of
4 family members,” and inserting “exclusive of family
5 members and dependent parents,”;

6 (2) in subsections (g), (j) and (k)(1) of section
7 8902, section 8902a(a)(1)(B), and section 8903(1)
8 by inserting “dependent parent,” after “family mem-
9 ber,” each place it appears;

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

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

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

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

21 (5) in section 8905(e) by adding at the end the
22 following: “The Office shall by regulation ensure
23 that the purposes of this subsection continue to be
24 carried after coverage for self and extended family
25 becomes available under this chapter.”;

1 (6) in section 8906(e)(1)(A) and the second
2 sentence of 8913(c) by inserting “or dependent par-
3 ents” after “family”; and

4 (7) in section 8907(b) by inserting “or depend-
5 ent parents” after “family members” each place it
6 appears.

7 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

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