

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2095

To amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act and title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide comprehensive coverage for childhood immunization.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. QUINN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. FROST, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. BELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act and title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide comprehensive coverage for childhood immunization.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Comprehensive Insur-  
3 ance Coverage of Childhood Immunization Act of 2003”.

4 **SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE FOR CHILDHOOD IM-**  
5 **MUNIZATION BY GROUP HEALTH PLANS AND**  
6 **HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUERS.**

7 (a) GROUP HEALTH PLANS.—

8 (1) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT AMEND-  
9 MENTS.—Subpart 2 of part A of title XXVII of the  
10 Public Health Service Act is amended by adding at  
11 the end the following new section:

12 **“SEC. 2707. STANDARD RELATING TO COVERAGE OF CHILD-**  
13 **HOOD IMMUNIZATION.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan, and a  
15 health insurance issuer offering group health insurance  
16 coverage, shall provide for each plan year comprehensive  
17 coverage for routine immunizations for each individual  
18 who is a dependent of a participant or beneficiary under  
19 the plan and is under 19 years of age.

20 “(b) COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE.—For purposes of  
21 this section, comprehensive coverage for routine immuni-  
22 zations for a plan year consists of coverage, without  
23 deductibles, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing, for immu-  
24 nizations (including the vaccine itself) in accordance with  
25 the most recent version of the Recommended Childhood  
26 Immunization Schedule issued prior to such plan year by

1 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the  
2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”.

3 (2) ERISA AMENDMENTS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part 7 of  
5 subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement  
6 Income Security Act of 1974 is amended by  
7 adding at the end the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 714. STANDARD RELATING TO COVERAGE OF CHILD-**  
9 **HOOD IMMUNIZATION.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan, and a  
11 health insurance issuer offering group health insurance  
12 coverage, shall provide for each plan year comprehensive  
13 coverage for routine immunizations for each individual  
14 who is a dependent of a participant or beneficiary under  
15 the plan and is under 19 years of age.

16 “(b) COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE.—For purposes of  
17 this section, comprehensive coverage for routine immuni-  
18 zations for a plan year consists of coverage, without  
19 deductibles, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing, for immu-  
20 nizations (including the vaccine itself) in accordance with  
21 the most recent version of the Recommended Childhood  
22 Immunization Schedule issued prior to such plan year by  
23 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the  
24 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”.

1 (B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of  
 2 contents in section 1 of such Act is amended by  
 3 inserting after the item relating to section 713  
 4 the following new item:

“Sec. 714. Standard relating to coverage of childhood immunization.”.

5 (b) INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE.—Part B of  
 6 title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act is amended  
 7 by inserting after section 2752 the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 2753. STANDARD RELATING TO COVERAGE OF CHILD-**  
 9 **HOOD IMMUNIZATION.**

10 “The provisions of section 2707 shall apply to health  
 11 insurance coverage offered by a health insurance issuer  
 12 in the individual market in the same manner as they apply  
 13 to health insurance coverage offered by a health insurance  
 14 issuer in connection with a group health plan in the small  
 15 or large group market.”.

16 **SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF ADMINISTRATION.**

17 The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the  
 18 Secretary of Labor shall ensure, through the execution of  
 19 an interagency memorandum of understanding among  
 20 such Secretaries, that—

21 (1) regulations, rulings, and interpretations  
 22 issued by such Secretaries relating to the same mat-  
 23 ter over which both such Secretaries have responsi-  
 24 bility under the provisions of this Act (and the

1 amendments made thereby) are administered so as  
2 to have the same effect at all times; and

3 (2) coordination of policies relating to enforcing  
4 the same requirements through such Secretaries in  
5 order to have a coordinated enforcement strategy  
6 that avoids duplication of enforcement efforts and  
7 assigns priorities in enforcement.

8 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES.**

9 (a) GROUP HEALTH PLANS AND GROUP HEALTH IN-  
10 SURANCE COVERAGE.—Subject to subsection (c), the  
11 amendments made by section 2(a) apply with respect to  
12 group health plans for plan years beginning on or after  
13 January 1, 2004.

14 (b) INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—  
15 The amendment made by section 2(b) applies with respect  
16 to health insurance coverage offered, sold, issued, re-  
17 newed, in effect, or operated in the individual market on  
18 or after such date.

19 (c) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING EXCEPTION.—In the  
20 case of a group health plan maintained pursuant to 1 or  
21 more collective bargaining agreements between employee  
22 representatives and 1 or more employers ratified before  
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the amendments made  
24 by section 2(a) shall not apply to plan years beginning  
25 before the later of—

1           (1) the earliest date as of which all such collec-  
2           tive bargaining agreements relating to the plan have  
3           terminated (determined without regard to any exten-  
4           sion thereof agreed to after the date of enactment of  
5           this Act), or

6           (2) January 1, 2004.

7 For purposes of paragraph (1), any plan amendment made  
8 pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement relating to  
9 the plan which amends the plan solely to conform to any  
10 requirement added by section 2(a) shall not be treated as  
11 a termination of such collective bargaining agreement.

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