

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 55

To make the Federal employees health benefits program available to individuals age 55 to 65 who would not otherwise have health insurance.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2005

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

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## A BILL

To make the Federal employees health benefits program available to individuals age 55 to 65 who would not otherwise have health insurance.

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. ELIGIBILITY FOR FEHBP COVERAGE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 89 of title 5, United  
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
6 lowing:

7 **“§ 8915. Coverage for the near elderly**

8 “(a) For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified  
9 individual’ means an individual who, as of the date on  
10 which such individual first submits an application for

1 health insurance coverage under this chapter in accord-  
2 ance with subsection (d)—

3           “(1) is at least 55 but less than 65 years of  
4 age; and

5           “(2) has not been covered under any policy of  
6 health insurance for at least the preceding 30 days.

7           “(b) Subject to the succeeding provisions of this sec-  
8 tion, any qualified individual may enroll in an approved  
9 health benefits plan under this chapter, for self alone, so  
10 long as such individual pays currently into the Employees  
11 Health Benefits Fund, under arrangements acceptable to  
12 the Office of Personnel Management, the total subscrip-  
13 tion charges required.

14           “(c) The total subscription charges required in the  
15 case of an individual enrolled in a health benefits plan  
16 under this section shall be equal to the sum of the em-  
17 ployee and agency contributions that would apply under  
18 this chapter in the case of an employee enrolled in the  
19 same health benefits plan and level of benefits for self  
20 alone.

21           “(d) An application to obtain health insurance cov-  
22 erage under this section may be submitted during any  
23 open enrollment period normally provided for under this  
24 chapter and at such other times as the Office may by regu-  
25 lation prescribe.

1 “(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this sec-  
2 tion—

3 “(1) an individual may not enroll or remain en-  
4 rolled in any health benefits plan pursuant to this  
5 section after attaining age 65; and

6 “(2) an individual whose enrollment under this  
7 section is terminated, whether voluntarily or involun-  
8 tarily, shall be barred from subsequently reenrolling  
9 under this section.

10 “(f) The Office shall prescribe such regulations as  
11 may be necessary to carry out this section.”.

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
13 tions for chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, is  
14 amended by adding at the end the following:

“8915. Coverage for the near elderly.”.

15 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
16 this section shall apply with respect to coverage in contract  
17 years beginning later than 6 months after the date of the  
18 enactment of this Act.

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