

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1049

To amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to provide grants to promote innovative outreach and enrollment under the medicaid and State children's health insurance programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 17, 2005

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to provide grants to promote innovative outreach and enrollment under the medicaid and State children's health insurance programs, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Covering Kids Act of
5 2005".

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO PROMOTE INNOVATIVE OUTREACH AND**
2 **ENROLLMENT UNDER MEDICAID AND SCHIP.**

3 (a) GRANTS FOR EXPANDED OUTREACH ACTIVI-
4 TIES.—Title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
5 1397aa et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 **“SEC. 2111. EXPANDED OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.**

8 “(a) GRANTS TO CONDUCT INNOVATIVE OUTREACH
9 AND ENROLLMENT EFFORTS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
11 grants to eligible entities to—

12 “(A) conduct innovative outreach and en-
13 rollment efforts that are designed to increase
14 the enrollment and participation of eligible chil-
15 dren under this title and title XIX; and

16 “(B) promote understanding of the impor-
17 tance of health insurance coverage for prenatal
18 care and children.

19 “(2) PERFORMANCE BONUSES.—The Secretary
20 may reserve a portion of the funds appropriated
21 under subsection (g) for a fiscal year for the purpose
22 of awarding performance bonuses during the suc-
23 ceeding fiscal year to eligible entities that meet en-
24 rollment goals or other criteria established by the
25 Secretary.

26 “(b) PRIORITY FOR AWARD OF GRANTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In making grants under
2 subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall give priority
3 to—

4 “(A) eligible entities that propose to target
5 geographic areas with high rates of—

6 “(i) eligible but unenrolled children,
7 including such children who reside in rural
8 areas; or

9 “(ii) racial and ethnic minorities and
10 health disparity populations, including
11 those proposals that address cultural and
12 linguistic barriers to enrollment; and

13 “(B) eligible entities that plan to engage in
14 outreach efforts with respect to individuals de-
15 scribed in subparagraph (A) and that are—

16 “(i) Federal health safety net organi-
17 zations; or

18 “(ii) faith-based organizations or con-
19 sortia.

20 “(2) 10 PERCENT SET ASIDE FOR OUTREACH
21 TO INDIAN CHILDREN.—An amount equal to 10 per-
22 cent of the funds appropriated under subsection (g)
23 for a fiscal year shall be used by the Secretary to
24 award grants to Indian Health Service providers and
25 urban Indian organizations receiving funds under

1 title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act
2 (25 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.) for outreach to, and enroll-
3 ment of, children who are Indians.

4 “(c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that desires to
5 receive a grant under subsection (a)(1) shall submit an
6 application to the Secretary in such form and manner, and
7 containing such information, as the Secretary may decide.
8 Such application shall include—

9 “(1) quality and outcomes performance meas-
10 ures to evaluate the effectiveness of activities funded
11 by a grant awarded under this section to ensure that
12 the activities are meeting their goals; and

13 “(2) an assurance that the entity shall—

14 “(A) conduct an assessment of the effec-
15 tiveness of such activities against such perform-
16 ance measures; and

17 “(B) cooperate with the collection and re-
18 porting of enrollment data and other informa-
19 tion determined as a result of conducting such
20 assessments to the Secretary, in such form and
21 manner as the Secretary shall require.

22 “(d) DISSEMINATION OF ENROLLMENT DATA AND
23 INFORMATION DETERMINED FROM EFFECTIVENESS AS-
24 SESSMENTS; ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall—

1 “(1) disseminate to eligible entities and make
2 publicly available the enrollment data and informa-
3 tion collected and reported in accordance with sub-
4 section (c)(2)(B); and

5 “(2) submit an annual report to Congress on
6 the outreach activities funded by grants awarded
7 under this section.

8 “(e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Federal funds
9 awarded under this section shall be used to supplement,
10 not supplant, non-Federal funds that are otherwise avail-
11 able for activities funded under this section.

12 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
14 tity’ means any of the following:

15 “(A) A State or local government.

16 “(B) A Federal health safety net organiza-
17 tion.

18 “(C) A national, local, or community-based
19 public or nonprofit private organization.

20 “(D) A faith-based organization or con-
21 sortia, to the extent that a grant awarded to
22 such an entity is consistent with the require-
23 ments of section 1955 of the Public Health
24 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–65) relating to a
25 grant award to non-governmental entities.

1 “(E) An elementary or secondary school.

2 “(2) FEDERAL HEALTH SAFETY NET ORGANI-
3 ZATION.—The term ‘Federal health safety net orga-
4 nization’ means—

5 “(A) an Indian tribe, tribal organization,
6 or an urban Indian organization receiving funds
7 under title V of the Indian Health Care Im-
8 provement Act (25 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.), or an
9 Indian Health Service provider;

10 “(B) a Federally-qualified health center
11 (as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B));

12 “(C) a hospital defined as a dispropor-
13 tionate share hospital for purposes of section
14 1923;

15 “(D) a covered entity described in section
16 340B(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act
17 (42 U.S.C. 256b(a)(4)); and

18 “(E) any other entity or a consortium that
19 serves children under a federally-funded pro-
20 gram, including the special supplemental nutri-
21 tion program for women, infants, and children
22 (WIC) established under section 17 of the Child
23 Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), the
24 head start and early head start programs under
25 the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9801 et seq.),

1 the school lunch program established under the
2 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act,
3 and an elementary or secondary school.

4 “(3) INDIANS; INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANI-
5 ZATION; URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION.—The terms
6 ‘Indian’, ‘Indian tribe’, ‘tribal organization’, and
7 ‘urban Indian organization’ have the meanings given
8 such terms in section 4 of the Indian Health Care
9 Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

10 “(g) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated, out of
11 any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
12 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 and 2007 for
13 the purpose of awarding grants under this section.
14 Amounts appropriated and paid under the authority of
15 this section shall be in addition to amounts appropriated
16 under section 2104 and paid to States in accordance with
17 section 2105, including with respect to expenditures for
18 outreach activities in accordance with subsection
19 (a)(1)(D)(iii) of that section.”.

20 (b) EXTENDING USE OF OUTSTATIONED WORKERS
21 TO ACCEPT TITLE XXI APPLICATIONS.—Section
22 1902(a)(55) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
23 1396a(a)(55)) is amended by striking “or
24 (a)(10)(A)(ii)(IX)” and inserting “(a)(10)(A)(ii)(IX), or

1 (a)(10)(A)(ii)(XIV), and applications for child health as-
 2 sistance under title XXI”.

3 **SEC. 3. STATE OPTION TO PROVIDE FOR SIMPLIFIED DE-**
 4 **TERMINATIONS OF A CHILD’S FINANCIAL ELI-**
 5 **GIBILITY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER**
 6 **MEDICAID OR CHILD HEALTH ASSISTANCE**
 7 **UNDER SCHIP.**

8 (a) MEDICAID.—Section 1902(e) of the Social Secu-
 9 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)) is amended by adding at
 10 the end the following:

11 “(13)(A) At the option of the State, the plan
 12 may provide that financial eligibility requirements
 13 for medical assistance are met for a child who is
 14 under an age specified by the State (not to exceed
 15 21 years of age) by using a determination made
 16 within a reasonable period (as determined by the
 17 State) before its use for this purpose, of the child’s
 18 family or household income, or if applicable for pur-
 19 poses of determining eligibility under this title or
 20 title XXI, assets or resources, by a Federal or State
 21 agency, or a public or private entity making such de-
 22 termination on behalf of such agency, specified by
 23 the plan, including (but not limited to) an agency
 24 administering the State program funded under part
 25 A of title IV, the Food Stamp Act of 1977, the

1 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, or
2 the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, notwithstanding
3 any differences in budget unit, disregard, deeming,
4 or other methodology, but only if—

5 “(i) the agency has fiscal liabilities or re-
6 sponsibilities affected or potentially affected by
7 such determination; and

8 “(ii) any information furnished by the
9 agency pursuant to this subparagraph is used
10 solely for purposes of determining financial eli-
11 gibility for medical assistance under this title or
12 for child health assistance under title XXI.

13 “(B) Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be con-
14 strued—

15 “(i) to authorize the denial of medical as-
16 sistance under this title or of child health as-
17 sistance under title XXI to a child who, without
18 the application of this paragraph, would qualify
19 for such assistance;

20 “(ii) to relieve a State of the obligation
21 under subsection (a)(8) to furnish medical as-
22 sistance with reasonable promptness after the
23 submission of an initial application that is eval-
24 uated or for which evaluation is requested pur-
25 suant to this paragraph;

1 “(iii) to relieve a State of the obligation to
2 determine eligibility for medical assistance
3 under this title or for child health assistance
4 under title XXI on a basis other than family or
5 household income (or, if applicable, assets or re-
6 sources) if a child is determined ineligible for
7 such assistance on the basis of information fur-
8 nished pursuant to this paragraph; or

9 “(iv) as affecting the applicability of any
10 non-financial requirements for eligibility for
11 medical assistance under this title or child
12 health assistance under title XXI.”.

13 (b) SCHIP.—Section 2107(e)(1) of the Social Secu-
14 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1397gg(e)(1)) is amended by adding
15 at the end the following:

16 “(E) Section 1902(e)(13) (relating to the
17 State option to base a determination of child’s
18 financial eligibility for assistance on financial
19 determinations made by a program providing
20 nutrition or other public assistance).”.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
22 this section take effect on October 1, 2005.

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