

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2247

To promote greater use of information technology in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 6, 2006

Mr. REID (for Mr. OBAMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To promote greater use of information technology in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

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 Employees
5 Health Benefits Program Efficiency Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PRO-**
2 **GRAM INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EFFI-**
3 **CIENCY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, each carrier entering into
6 a contract under section 8902 of title 5, United States
7 Code, to offer a health benefits plan shall implement an
8 electronic system for efficient and effective adjudication
9 of all medical claims.

10 (b) ADJUDICATION.—In adjudicating claims under
11 chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, using the system
12 described under subsection (a), each carrier shall ensure
13 that such claims—

14 (1) may be submitted through the Internet;

15 (2) are adjudicated with an accuracy of at least
16 99 percent;

17 (3) may be denied instantaneously if the infor-
18 mation provided is incorrect or incomplete or for
19 other nonmedical reasons, with opportunity for reso-
20 lution of such denials, through the Internet; and

21 (4) shall be submitted using the privacy safe-
22 guards necessary to protect the personal and medical
23 information of patients from inappropriate use.

24 (c) FRAUD.—Each carrier entering into a contract
25 under section 8902 of title 5, United States Code, shall
26 use the system described under subsection (a) to monitor

1 for fraud and abuse as part of the adjudication of claims
2 described under this section.

3 (d) WAIVERS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Personnel
5 Management may provide 1 or more waivers to the
6 requirement of subsection (a), if the carrier—

7 (A) is unable to meet the requirement de-
8 spite good faith effort; or

9 (B) the lack of participation by the carrier
10 in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Pro-
11 gram would significantly compromise access to
12 health care.

13 (2) LIMITATION ON WAIVERS.—No waiver
14 under paragraph (1) may be in effect after 6 years
15 after the date of enactment of this Act.

16 (e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Office of Per-
17 sonnel Management may provide technical assistance, in-
18 cluding equipment, computer software, and guidance to
19 carry out this Act.

20 (f) REPORT.—

21 (1) NOTICE.—The Office of Personnel Manage-
22 ment shall provide notice to the Government Ac-
23 countability Office of the implementation of this Act.

24 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after re-
25 ceipt of notice under paragraph (1), the Government

1 Accountability Office shall submit a report to Con-
2 gress on—

3 (A) compliance with this Act;

4 (B) obstacles to compliance with this Act;

5 and

6 (C) cost savings resulting from this Act.

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