

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2350

To establish a grant program to provide screenings for glaucoma to individuals determined to be at high risk for glaucoma, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

Mr. MENENDEZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To establish a grant program to provide screenings for glaucoma to individuals determined to be at high risk for glaucoma, 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 “Glaucoma Screening
5 Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) It is estimated that only half of the more
9 than 3,000,000 individuals in the United States that
10 have glaucoma are aware that they have glaucoma.

1 (2) Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness
2 among African-Americans and Hispanics.

3 (3) Glaucoma is 6 to 8 times more common in
4 African-Americans than in Caucasians.

5 (4) Glaucoma accounts for over 7,000,000 visits
6 to physicians each year.

7 (5) In terms of Social Security benefits paid,
8 lost income tax revenues, and health care expendi-
9 tures, the cost of glaucoma to the United States gov-
10 ernment is estimated to be over \$1.5 billion annu-
11 ally.

12 (6) Poor vision costs Medicare more than \$2
13 billion per year in non-eye-related illnesses and
14 healthcare needs.

15 (7) Medicare currently provides coverage for
16 glaucoma screenings for beneficiaries in the fol-
17 lowing high risk groups:

18 (A) Individuals with diabetes.

19 (B) Individuals with a family history of
20 glaucoma.

21 (C) African-Americans 50 years of age and
22 older.

23 (D) Hispanics 65 years of age and older.

24 (8) Although Medicare has covered glaucoma
25 screenings since 1998 for beneficiaries with diabetes,

1 less than 45 percent of those beneficiaries have had
 2 an eye exam.

3 **SEC. 3. DIRECTING SECRETARY TO INCLUDE COVERAGE OF**
 4 **GLAUCOMA SCREENINGS UNDER MEDICARE**
 5 **FOR CERTAIN HISPANICS.**

6 (a) EXPANDING MEDICARE COVERAGE OF GLAU-
 7 COMA SCREENINGS TO HISPANICS 50 YEARS OF AGE AND
 8 OLDER.—Section 1861(s)(2)(U) of the Social Security
 9 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)(U)) is amended by striking
 10 “determined to be” and all that follows through “diabe-
 11 tes” and inserting the following: “with a family history
 12 of glaucoma, individuals with diabetes, and individuals de-
 13 termined to be at high risk for glaucoma including, among
 14 other individuals determined to be at high risk for glau-
 15 coma, individuals who are both older than 49 years of age
 16 and Hispanic”.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 18 subsection (a) applies with respect to services furnished
 19 on or after January 1, 2008.

20 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHING GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE**
 21 **SCREENINGS FOR GLAUCOMA TO HIGH RISK**
 22 **INDIVIDUALS.**

23 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish
 24 a program to award a grant to an eligible entity (as de-
 25 scribed in subsection (b)) to provide screenings for glau-

1 coma for individuals determined to be at high risk for
2 glaucoma.

3 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible to receive
4 a grant under this section, an entity shall—

5 (1) submit an application at such time, in such
6 form, and with such information and assurances as
7 the Secretary may require;

8 (2) be located within the United States, the
9 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a territory or pos-
10 session of the United States; and

11 (3) be dedicated solely to screening individuals
12 for glaucoma and other eye diseases.

13 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity receiving a grant
14 under this section shall use the grant in accordance with
15 the following requirements:

16 (1) The entity shall utilize mobile screening
17 units to test for glaucoma and other eye diseases.

18 (2) The entity shall target screening activities
19 to populations primarily consisting of individuals de-
20 termined to be at high risk for glaucoma.

21 (3) The entity shall form partnerships with
22 Federally-qualified health centers to increase aware-
23 ness of the need for screenings for glaucoma and to
24 provide screenings for glaucoma for individuals de-
25 termined to be at high risk for glaucoma, individuals

1 with a family history of glaucoma, and individuals
2 with diabetes.

3 (4) The entity shall provide grants to approved
4 medical residency training programs to permit stu-
5 dents participating in the programs to conduct
6 screenings for glaucoma for individuals determined
7 to be at high risk for glaucoma.

8 (5) The entity shall conduct all grant-funded
9 activities within the United States, the Common-
10 wealth of Puerto Rico, or a territory or possession
11 of the United States.

12 (d) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section,
13 the following definitions apply:

14 (1) APPROVED MEDICAL RESIDENCY TRAINING
15 PROGRAM.—The term “approved medical residency
16 training program” has the meaning given that term
17 in section 1886(h)(5)(A) of the Social Security Act
18 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(h)(5)(A)).

19 (2) FEDERALLY-QUALIFIED HEALTH CEN-
20 TER.—The term “Federally-qualified health center”
21 has the meaning given that term in section
22 1861(aa)(4) of the Social Security Act (42
23 U.S.C.1395x(aa)(4)).

24 (3) INDIVIDUALS DETERMINED TO BE AT HIGH
25 RISK FOR GLAUCOMA.—The term “individuals deter-

1 mined to be at high risk for glaucoma” means those
2 individuals determined by the Secretary to be at
3 high risk for glaucoma pursuant to the Secretary’s
4 administration of section 1861(s)(2)(U) of the Social
5 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)(U)), as amend-
6 ed by section 3(a), but without regard to the age of
7 the individual.

8 (4) SCREENING FOR GLAUCOMA.—The term
9 “screening for glaucoma” has the meaning given
10 that term in section 1861(uu) of the Social Security
11 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(uu)).

12 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

14 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for grants
16 under this section for each of the first 5 fiscal years begin-
17 ning after the date of enactment of this Act.

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