

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 694

To extend temporarily the 18-month period of continuation coverage under group health plans required under COBRA continuation coverage provisions so as to provide for a total period of continuation coverage of up to 24 months.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2009

Mr. SESTAK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means, 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 extend temporarily the 18-month period of continuation coverage under group health plans required under COBRA continuation coverage provisions so as to provide for a total period of continuation coverage of up to 24 months.

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 “COBRA Coverage Ex-  
5       tension Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF BASIC PERIOD OF**  
2 **COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE FROM 18**  
3 **MONTHS TO 24 MONTHS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which an individual  
5 is eligible for and has elected continuation coverage under  
6 a COBRA continuation coverage provision as of the date  
7 of the enactment of this Act and the period of continuation  
8 coverage applicable with respect to such individual under  
9 such provision would (but for this section) end before the  
10 end of the period of 12 calendar months following the date  
11 of the enactment of this Act by reason of a limitation  
12 under such provision of such coverage to 18 months after  
13 the date of the qualifying event, such limitation shall be  
14 extended to the earlier of—

15 (1) the end of such period of 12-calendar  
16 months, or

17 (2) 24 months after the date of the qualifying  
18 event.

19 (b) COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE PROVI-  
20 SION.—For purposes of this section, the term “COBRA  
21 continuation coverage provision” means—

22 (1) part 6 of subtitle B of title I of the Em-  
23 ployee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974,

24 (2) title XXII of the Public Health Service Act,

25 (3) section 4980B of the Internal Revenue Code  
26 of 1986, or

1           (4) section 8905a of title 5, United States  
2       Code.

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