

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1488

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 21, 2009

Mr. BURRIS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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 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 enactment of this Act by reason of a limitation under
12 such provision of such coverage to 18 months after the
13 date of the qualifying event, such limitation shall be ex-
14 tended 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 (29
24 U.S.C. 1161 et seq.);

25 (2) title XXII of the Public Health Service Act
26 (42 U.S.C. 300bb–1 et seq.);

1 (3) section 4980B of the Internal Revenue Code
2 of 1986; or

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

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