

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1714

To establish a multiagency nationwide campaign to educate small business concerns about health insurance options available to children.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 2007

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

A BILL

To establish a multiagency nationwide campaign to educate small business concerns about health insurance options available to children.

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 “Small Business Chil-
5 dren’s Health Education Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) nearly 2,000,000 of the 9,000,000 unin-
9 sured children in the United States are currently eli-

1 gible for the State Children’s Health Insurance Pro-
2 gram based on their family income, but are not en-
3 rolled;

4 (2) nearly 4,000,000 uninsured children appear
5 to be eligible for Medicaid, but remain uninsured;

6 (3) the State Children’s Health Insurance Pro-
7 gram appears to reach only 69 percent of its target
8 population;

9 (4) according to a study conducted by the
10 Urban Institute in February, 2007, among those eli-
11 gible for the State Children’s Health Insurance Pro-
12 gram, children whose families are self-employed or
13 who work for small business concerns are far less
14 likely to be enrolled in that program, specifically
15 that 1 out of every 4 eligible children with parents
16 who work for a small business concern or are self
17 employed are not enrolled, compared with 1 out of
18 10 eligible children whose parents work for a large
19 firm who are not enrolled; and

20 (5) the Federal Government can improve the
21 lives of uninsured families eligible for the State Chil-
22 dren’s Health Insurance Program through increas-
23 ing awareness of the availability, eligibility, and en-
24 rollment process for the State Children’s Health In-
25 surance Program (and other private options for

1 health insurance) among owners of small business
2 concerns.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act—

5 (1) the terms “Administration” and “Adminis-
6 trator” means the Small Business Administration
7 and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

8 (2) the term “certified development company”
9 means a development company participating in the
10 program under title V of the Small Business Invest-
11 ment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.);

12 (3) the term “Medicaid program” means the
13 program established under title XIX of the Social
14 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.);

15 (4) the term “Service Corps of Retired Execu-
16 tives” means the Service Corps of Retired Execu-
17 tives authorized by section 8(b)(1) of the Small
18 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1));

19 (5) the term “small business concern” has the
20 meaning given that term in section 3 of the Small
21 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632);

22 (6) the term “small business development cen-
23 ter” means a small business development center de-
24 scribed in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15
25 U.S.C. 648);

1 (7) the term “State” has the meaning given
2 that term for purposes of title XXI of the Social Se-
3 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.);

4 (8) the term “State Children’s Health Insur-
5 ance Program” means the State Children’s Health
6 Insurance Program established under title XXI of
7 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.);

8 (9) the term “task force” means the task force
9 established under section 4(a); and

10 (10) the term “women’s business center” means
11 a women’s business center described in section 29 of
12 the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656).

13 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.**

14 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a task
15 force to conduct a nationwide campaign of education and
16 outreach for small business concerns regarding the avail-
17 ability of coverage for children through private insurance
18 options, the Medicaid program, and the State Children’s
19 Health Insurance Program.

20 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The task force shall consist of
21 the Administrator, the Secretary of Health and Human
22 Services, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of the
23 Treasury.

24 (c) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The campaign conducted
25 under this section shall include—

1 (1) efforts to educate the owners of small busi-
2 ness concerns about the value of health coverage for
3 children;

4 (2) information regarding options available to
5 the owners and employees of small business concerns
6 to make insurance more affordable, including Fed-
7 eral and State tax deductions and credits for health
8 care-related expenses and health insurance expenses
9 and Federal tax exclusion for health insurance op-
10 tions available under employer-sponsored cafeteria
11 plans under section 125 of the Internal Revenue
12 Code of 1986;

13 (3) efforts to educate the owners of small busi-
14 ness concerns about assistance available through
15 public programs; and

16 (4) efforts to educate the owners and employees
17 of small business concerns regarding the availability
18 of the hotline operated as part of the Insure Kids
19 Now program of the Department of Health and
20 Human Services.

21 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out this section,
22 the task force may—

23 (1) use any business partner of the Administra-
24 tion, including—

25 (A) a small business development center;

1 (B) a certified development company;

2 (C) a women's business center; and

3 (D) the Service Corps of Retired Execu-
4 tives;

5 (2) enter into—

6 (A) a memorandum of understanding with
7 a chamber of commerce; and

8 (B) a partnership with any appropriate
9 small business concern or health advocacy
10 group; and

11 (3) designate outreach programs at regional of-
12 fices of the Department of Health and Human Serv-
13 ices to work with district offices of the Administra-
14 tion.

15 (e) WEBSITE.—The Administrator shall ensure that
16 links to information on the eligibility and enrollment re-
17 quirements for the Medicaid program and State Children's
18 Health Insurance Program of each State are prominently
19 displayed on the website of the Administration.

20 (f) REPORT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years
23 thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the
24 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
25 of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business

1 of the House of Representatives a report on the sta-
2 tus of the nationwide campaign conducted under
3 subsection (a).

4 (2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under
5 paragraph (1) shall include a status update on all
6 efforts made to educate owners and employees of
7 small business concerns on options for providing
8 health insurance for children through public and pri-
9 vate alternatives.

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