

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 186

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2009

Mr. SERRANO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on 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

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 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

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

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

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

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

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

15 (6) Poor vision costs Medicare more than \$2
16 billion per year in non-eye-related illnesses and
17 health care needs.

18 (7) Medicare currently provides coverage for
19 glaucoma screenings for beneficiaries in the fol-
20 lowing high risk groups:

21 (A) Individuals with diabetes.

22 (B) Individuals with a family history of
23 glaucoma.

24 (C) African-Americans 50 years of age and
25 older.

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

2 (8) Although Medicare has covered glaucoma
3 screenings since 1998 for beneficiaries with diabetes,
4 less than 45 percent of those beneficiaries have had
5 an eye exam.

6 **SEC. 3. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF GLAUCOMA SCREENINGS**
7 **FOR CERTAIN HISPANICS.**

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

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
20 subsection (a) applies with respect to services furnished
21 on or after January 1, 2010.

22 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SCREENINGS FOR**
23 **GLAUCOMA TO HIGH RISK INDIVIDUALS.**

24 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish
25 a program to award a grant to an eligible entity (as de-

1 scribed in subsection (b)) to provide screenings for glau-
2 coma for individuals determined to be at high risk for
3 glaucoma.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 terminated to be at high risk for glaucoma, individuals
2 with a family history of glaucoma, and individuals
3 with diabetes.

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

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

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

15 (1) APPROVED MEDICAL RESIDENCY TRAINING
16 PROGRAM.—The term “approved medical residency
17 training program” has the meaning given that term
18 in section 1886(h)(5)(A) of the Social Security Act
19 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(h)(5)(A)).

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

1 (3) INDIVIDUALS DETERMINED TO BE AT HIGH
2 RISK FOR GLAUCOMA.—The term “individuals deter-
3 mined to be at high risk for glaucoma” means those
4 individuals determined by the Secretary to be at
5 high risk for glaucoma pursuant to the Secretary’s
6 administration of section 1861(s)(2)(U) of the Social
7 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)(U)), as amend-
8 ed by section 3(a), but without regard to the age of
9 the individual.

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

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

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

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