

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4230

To limit access of Members of Congress to Government-administered health care benefits so long as comprehensive health reform legislation has not become law.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Veterans' Affairs, 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 limit access of Members of Congress to Government-administered health care benefits so long as comprehensive health reform legislation has not become law.

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 “Health Care Reality
5 Check Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITING ACCESS OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO**
2 **GOVERNMENT-ADMINISTERED HEALTH CARE**
3 **BENEFITS SO LONG AS COMPREHENSIVE**
4 **HEALTH REFORM LEGISLATION HAS NOT BE-**
5 **COME LAW.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Effective for months beginning
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, no Member
8 of or delegate to the United States House of Representa-
9 tives and no Member of the United States Senate shall
10 be eligible for any Government-administered health care
11 benefit until the first day of the first month following the
12 date on which comprehensive health reform legislation is
13 signed into law.

14 (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

15 (1) **GOVERNMENT-ADMINISTERED HEALTH**
16 **CARE BENEFIT.**—The term “Government-adminis-
17 tered health care benefit” includes health care bene-
18 fits or services under or through any of the fol-
19 lowing:

20 (A) **FEHBP.**—Chapter 89 of title 5,
21 United States Code (relating to the Federal
22 Employees Health Benefits Program or
23 FEHBP).

24 (B) **MEDICARE.**—The Medicare program
25 under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

1 (C) VA.—The Department of Veterans Af-
2 fairs.

3 (D) OAP.—The Office of the Attending
4 Physician in the United States Capitol.

5 (E) FSA.—Payment through a flexible
6 spending account program.

7 (2) COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH REFORM LEGIS-
8 LATION.—The term “comprehensive health reform
9 legislation” means an Act of Congress that includes
10 at least all of the following:

11 (A) Establishment of an inclusive and ac-
12 cessible health insurance marketplace which in-
13 cludes a public health insurance option.

14 (B) A prohibition of discrimination in
15 health benefits coverage based on pre-existing
16 conditions and a prohibition on the imposition
17 of lifetime limits on coverage.

18 (C) A limit on the ability of health insur-
19 ance issuers to charge higher premiums due to
20 health status, age, or gender.

21 (D) A requirement that health insurance
22 issuers expend a minimum medical loss ratio of
23 at least 85 percent of premium dollars on med-
24 ical care, rather than on administration, mar-
25 keting, and profit, and refund to consumers or

1 subsequently adjust premiums insofar as it fails
2 to meet such loss ratio.

3 (E) Establishment of an essential health
4 benefits requirement for all health insurance
5 coverage that includes coverage of hospitaliza-
6 tion, physician services, prescription drugs, pre-
7 ventive services with no cost-sharing, mental
8 health services, and oral health and vision for
9 children.

10 (F) Preserving individual choice of doctors
11 and health providers.

12 (G) Providing a sliding scale of afford-
13 ability credit to low- and moderate- income indi-
14 viduals and families and limiting annual out-of-
15 pocket spending for all income levels to prevent
16 bankruptcies from medical expenses.

17 (H) Creating shared responsibility among
18 individuals, employers, and government to en-
19 sure that all Americans have affordable cov-
20 erage of essential health benefits.

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