111TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H.R. 716

To amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide coverage for individuals participating in approved cancer clinical trials.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 27, 2009

Mr. Israel (for himself, Mrs. Myrick, and Mrs. Capps) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor 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

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide coverage for individuals participating in approved cancer clinical trials.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. 2 This Act may be cited as the "Access to Cancer Clin-3 ical Trials Act of 2009". SEC. 2. COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN 4 5 APPROVED CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS. 6 (a) Group Health Plans.— 7 (1) Public Health Service act amend-8 MENTS.—Subpart 2 of part A of title XXVII of the 9 Public Health Service Act is amended by adding at 10 the end the following new section: 11 "SEC. 2707. COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING 12 IN APPROVED CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS. "(a) COVERAGE.— 13 "(1) IN GENERAL.—If a group health plan (or 14 15 a health insurance issuer offering health insurance 16 coverage in connection with the plan) provides cov-17 erage to a qualified individual (as defined in sub-18 section (b)), the plan or issuer— 19 "(A) may not deny the individual partici-20 pation in the clinical trial referred to in sub-21 section (b)(2); 22 "(B) subject to subsection (c), may not 23 deny (or limit or impose additional conditions 24 on) the coverage of routine patient costs for 25 items and services furnished in connection with

participation in the trial; and

1	"(C) may not discriminate against the in-
2	dividual on the basis of the individual's partici-
3	pation in such trial.
4	"(2) Exclusion of Certain Costs.—
5	"(A) In general.—For purposes of para-
6	graph (1)(B), subject to subparagraph (B), rou-
7	tine patient costs include all items and services
8	provided in the clinical trial that are otherwise
9	generally available to the qualified individual,
10	except—
11	"(i) in the cases of drugs and devices,
12	the investigational item or service, itself; or
13	"(ii) items and services that are pro-
14	vided solely to satisfy data collection and
15	analysis needs and that are not used in the
16	direct clinical management of the patient.
17	"(B) Inclusions.—Such routine patient
18	costs include costs for the following:
19	"(i) Conventional care.—Items or
20	services that are typically provided absent
21	a clinical trial.
22	"(ii) Administrative items.—Items
23	or services required solely for the provision
24	of the investigational item or service (such
25	as the administration of a noncovered

chemotherapeutic agent), the clinically ap-1 2 propriate monitoring of the effects of the item or service, or the prevention of com-3 plications. "(iii) Reasonable and necessary 6 CARE.—Items or services needed for rea-7 sonable and necessary care arising from 8 the provision of an investigational item or 9 service, including the diagnosis or treat-10 ment of complications. "(3) USE OF IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS.—If one 11 12 or more participating providers is participating in a 13 clinical trial, nothing in paragraph (1) shall be con-14 strued as preventing a plan or issuer from requiring 15 that a qualified individual participate in the trial 16 through such a participating provider if the provider 17 will accept the individual as a participant in the 18 trial. 19 "(b) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term 'qualified individual' 21 means an individual who is a participant or beneficiary 22 in a group health plan and who meets the following condi-23 tions: "(1)(A) The individual has been diagnosed with 24

cancer.

"(B) The individual is eligible to participate in an approved clinical trial according to the trial protocol with respect to treatment of such illness.

"(2) Either—

"(A) the referring physician is a participating health care professional and has concluded that the individual's participation in such trial would be appropriate based upon the individual meeting the conditions described in paragraph (1); or

"(B) the participant or beneficiary provides medical and scientific information establishing that the individual's participation in such trial would be appropriate based upon the individual meeting the conditions described in paragraph (1).

"(c) Payment.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Under this section a group health plan (or health insurance issuer offering health insurance coverage in connection with the plan) shall provide for payment for routine patient costs described in subsection (a)(2) but is not required to pay for costs of items and services that are customarily provided by the research sponsors free of charge for individuals participating in the trial.

1	"(2) Payment rate.—In the case of covered
2	items and services provided by—
3	"(A) a participating provider, the payment
4	rate shall be at the agreed upon rate, or
5	"(B) a nonparticipating provider, the pay-
6	ment rate shall be at the rate the plan would
7	normally pay for comparable items and services
8	under subparagraph (A).
9	"(d) Approved Clinical Trial Defined.—
10	"(1) In general.—In this section, the term
11	'approved clinical trial' means a clinical research
12	study or clinical investigation that relates to the
13	treatment of cancer (including related symptoms)
14	and is described in any of the following subpara-
15	graphs:
16	"(A) FEDERALLY FUNDED TRIALS.—The
17	study or investigation is approved or funded
18	(which may include funding through in-kind
19	contributions) by one or more of the following:
20	"(i) NIH.—The National Institutes of
21	Health.
22	"(ii) CDC.—The Centers for Disease
23	Control and Prevention.
24	"(iii) AHRQ.—The Agency for Health
25	Care Research and Quality.

1	"(iv) CMS.—The Centers for Medi-
2	care & Medicaid Services.
3	"(v) Cooperative center.—A coop-
4	erative group or center of any of the enti-
5	ties described in clauses (i) through (iv) or
6	the Departments of Defense or Veterans
7	Affairs.
8	"(vi) Center support grantees.—
9	A qualified non-governmental research en-
10	tity identified in the guidelines issued by
11	the National Institutes of Health for cen-
12	ter support grants.
13	"(vii) DOD; VA; DOE.—Any of the fol-
14	lowing if the conditions described in para-
15	graph (2) are met:
16	"(I) The Department of Veterans
17	Affairs.
18	"(II) The Department of De-
19	fense.
20	"(III) The Department of En-
21	ergy.
22	"(B) FDA DRUG TRIAL UNDER IND.—The
23	study or investigation is conducted under an in-
24	vestigational new drug application reviewed by
25	the Food and Drug Administration.

1	"(C) Exempt drug trial.—The study or
2	investigation is a drug trial that is exempt from
3	having such an investigational new drug appli-
4	cation.
5	"(2) Conditions for Departments.—The
6	conditions described in this paragraph, for a study
7	or investigation conducted by a Department, are
8	that the study or investigation has been reviewed
9	and approved through a system of peer review that
10	the Secretary determines—
11	"(A) to be comparable to the system of
12	peer review of studies and investigations used
13	by the National Institutes of Health, and
14	"(B) assures unbiased review of the high-
15	est scientific standards by qualified individuals
16	who have no interest in the outcome of the re-
17	view.
18	"(e) Construction.—Nothing in this section shall
19	be construed to limit a plan's or issuer's coverage with
20	respect to clinical trials.".
21	(2) ERISA AMENDMENTS.—(A) Subpart B of
22	part 7 of subtitle B of title I of the Employee Re-
23	tirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended by
24	adding at the end the following new section:

1 "SEC. 714. COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN 2 APPROVED CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS. 3 "(a) COVERAGE.— "(1) IN GENERAL.—If a group health plan (or 4 5 a health insurance issuer offering health insurance 6 coverage in connection with the plan) provides cov-7 erage to a qualified individual (as defined in sub-8 section (b)), the plan or issuer— "(A) may not deny the individual partici-9 10 pation in the clinical trial referred to in sub-11 section (b)(2); 12 "(B) subject to subsection (c), may not 13 deny (or limit or impose additional conditions 14 on) the coverage of routine patient costs for 15 items and services furnished in connection with 16 participation in the trial; and "(C) may not discriminate against the in-17 18 dividual on the basis of the individual's partici-19 pation in such trial. 20 "(2) Exclusion of Certain Costs.— "(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of para-21 22 graph (1)(B), subject to subparagraph (B), rou-23 tine patient costs include all items and services 24 provided in the clinical trial that are otherwise 25 generally available to the qualified individual,

except—

1	"(i) in the cases of drugs and devices,
2	the investigational item or service, itself; or
3	"(ii) items and services that are pro-
4	vided solely to satisfy data collection and
5	analysis needs and that are not used in the
6	direct clinical management of the patient.
7	"(B) Exclusion.—Such routine patient
8	costs do include costs for the following:
9	"(i) Conventional care.—Items or
10	services that are typically provided absent
11	a clinical trial.
12	"(ii) Administrative items.—Items
13	or services required solely for the provision
14	of the investigational item or service (such
15	as the administration of a noncovered
16	chemotherapeutic agent), the clinically ap-
17	propriate monitoring of the effects of the
18	item or service, or the prevention of com-
19	plications.
20	"(iii) Reasonable and necessary
21	CARE.—Items or services needed for rea-
22	sonable and necessary care arising from
23	the provision of an investigational item or
24	service, including the diagnosis or treat-
25	ment of complications.

1	"(3) Use of in-network providers.—If one
2	or more participating providers is participating in a
3	clinical trial, nothing in paragraph (1) shall be con-
4	strued as preventing a plan or issuer from requiring
5	that a qualified individual participate in the trial
6	through such a participating provider if the provider
7	will accept the individual as a participant in the
8	trial.
9	"(b) Qualified Individual Defined.—For pur-
10	poses of subsection (a), the term 'qualified individual'
11	means an individual who is a participant or beneficiary
12	in a group health plan and who meets the following condi-
13	tions:
14	"(1)(A) The individual has been diagnosed with
15	cancer.
16	"(B) The individual is eligible to participate in
17	an approved clinical trial according to the trial pro-
18	tocol with respect to treatment of such illness.
19	"(2) Either—
20	"(A) the referring physician is a partici-
21	pating health care professional and has con-
22	cluded that the individual's participation in
23	such trial would be appropriate based upon the
24	individual meeting the conditions described in
25	paragraph (1); or

1	"(B) the participant or beneficiary pro-
2	vides medical and scientific information estab-
3	lishing that the individual's participation in
4	such trial would be appropriate based upon the
5	individual meeting the conditions described in
6	paragraph (1).
7	"(c) Payment.—
8	"(1) In general.—Under this section a group
9	health plan (or health insurance issuer offering
10	health insurance coverage in connection with the
11	plan) shall provide for payment for routine patient
12	costs described in subsection (a)(2) but is not re-
13	quired to pay for costs of items and services that are
14	customarily provided by the research sponsors free
15	of charge for individuals participating in the trial.
16	"(2) Payment rate.—In the case of covered
17	items and services provided by—
18	"(A) a participating provider, the payment
19	rate shall be at the agreed upon rate, or
20	"(B) a nonparticipating provider, the pay-
21	ment rate shall be at the rate the plan would
22	normally pay for comparable items and services
23	under subparagraph (A).
24	"(d) Approved Clinical Trial Defined —

1	"(1) In general.—In this section, the term
2	'approved clinical trial' means a clinical research
3	study or clinical investigation that relates to the
4	treatment of cancer (including related symptoms)
5	and is described in any of the following subpara-
6	graphs:
7	"(A) FEDERALLY FUNDED TRIALS.—The
8	study or investigation is approved or funded
9	(which may include funding through in-kind
10	contributions) by one or more of the following:
11	"(i) NIH.—The National Institutes of
12	Health.
13	"(ii) CDC.—The Centers for Disease
14	Control and Prevention.
15	"(iii) AHRQ.—The Agency for Health
16	Care Research and Quality.
17	"(iv) CMS.—The Centers for Medi-
18	care & Medicaid Services.
19	"(v) Cooperative center.—A coop-
20	erative group or center of any of the enti-
21	ties described in clauses (i) through (iv) or
22	the Departments of Defense or Veterans
23	Affairs.
24	"(vi) Center support grantees.—
25	A qualified non-governmental research en-

1	tity identified in the guidelines issued by
2	the National Institutes of Health for cen-
3	ter support grants.
4	"(vii) DOD; VA; DOE.—Any of the fol-
5	lowing if the conditions described in para-
6	graph (2) are met:
7	"(I) The Department of Veterans
8	Affairs.
9	"(II) The Department of De-
10	fense.
11	"(III) The Department of En-
12	ergy.
13	"(B) FDA DRUG TRIAL UNDER IND.—The
14	study or investigation is conducted under an in-
15	vestigational new drug application reviewed by
16	the Food and Drug Administration.
17	"(C) Exempt drug trial.—The study or
18	investigation is a drug trial that is exempt from
19	having such an investigational new drug appli-
20	cation.
21	"(2) Conditions for Departments.—The
22	conditions described in this paragraph, for a study
23	or investigation conducted by a Department, are
24	that the study or investigation has been reviewed

1	and approved through a system of peer review that
2	the Secretary determines—
3	"(A) to be comparable to the system of
4	peer review of studies and investigations used
5	by the National Institutes of Health, and
6	"(B) assures unbiased review of the high-
7	est scientific standards by qualified individuals
8	who have no interest in the outcome of the re-
9	view.
10	"(e) Construction.—Nothing in this section shall
11	be construed to limit a plan's or issuer's coverage with
12	respect to clinical trials.".
13	(B) Section 732(a) of such Act (29 U.S.C.
14	1191a(a)) is amended by striking "section 711" and
15	inserting "sections 711 and 714".
16	(C) The table of contents in section 1 of such
17	Act is amended by inserting after the item relating
18	to section 713 the following new item:
	"Sec. 714. Coverage for individuals participating in approved cancer clinical trials.".
19	(3) Internal revenue code amend-
20	MENTS.—
21	(A) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter B of chap-
22	ter 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
23	is amended—

1	(i) in the table of sections, by insert-
2	ing after the item relating to section 9812
3	the following new item:
	"Sec. 9813. Coverage for individuals participating in approved cancer clinical trials.";
4	and
5	(ii) by inserting after section 9812 the
6	following:
7	"SEC. 9813. COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING
8	IN APPROVED CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS.
9	"(a) Coverage.—
10	"(1) IN GENERAL.—If a group health plan pro-
11	vides coverage to a qualified individual (as defined in
12	subsection (b)), the plan—
13	"(A) may not deny the individual partici-
14	pation in the clinical trial referred to in sub-
15	section (b)(2);
16	"(B) subject to subsection (c), may not
17	deny (or limit or impose additional conditions
18	on) the coverage of routine patient costs for
19	items and services furnished in connection with
20	participation in the trial; and
21	"(C) may not discriminate against the in-
22	dividual on the basis of the individual's partici-
23	pation in such trial.
24	"(2) Exclusion of Certain Costs.—

1	"(A) In general.—For purposes of para-
2	graph (1)(B), subject to subparagraph (B), rou-
3	tine patient costs include all items and services
4	provided in the clinical trial that are otherwise
5	generally available to the qualified individual,
6	except—
7	"(i) in the cases of drugs and devices,
8	the investigational item or service, itself; or
9	"(ii) items and services that are pro-
10	vided solely to satisfy data collection and
11	analysis needs and that are not used in the
12	direct clinical management of the patient.
13	"(B) Exclusion.—Such routine patient
14	costs do include costs for the following:
15	"(i) Conventional care.—Items or
16	services that are typically provided absent
17	a clinical trial.
18	"(ii) Administrative items.—Items
19	or services required solely for the provision
20	of the investigational item or service (such
21	as the administration of a noncovered
22	chemotherapeutic agent), the clinically ap-
23	propriate monitoring of the effects of the
24	item or service, or the prevention of com-
25	plications.

1	"(iii) Reasonable and necessary
2	CARE.—Items or services needed for rea-
3	sonable and necessary care arising from
4	the provision of an investigational item or
5	service, including the diagnosis or treat-
6	ment of complications.
7	"(3) USE OF IN-NETWORK PROVIDERS.—If one
8	or more participating providers is participating in a
9	clinical trial, nothing in paragraph (1) shall be con-
10	strued as preventing a plan from requiring that a
11	qualified individual participate in the trial through
12	such a participating provider if the provider will ac-
13	cept the individual as a participant in the trial.
14	"(b) Qualified Individual Defined.—For pur-
15	poses of subsection (a), the term 'qualified individual'
16	means an individual who is a participant or beneficiary
17	in a group health plan and who meets the following condi-
18	tions:
19	"(1)(A) The individual has been diagnosed with
20	cancer.
21	"(B) The individual is eligible to participate in
22	an approved clinical trial according to the trial pro-
23	tocol with respect to treatment of such illness.
24	"(2) Either—

1	"(A) the referring physician is a partici-
2	pating health care professional and has con-
3	cluded that the individual's participation in
4	such trial would be appropriate based upon the
5	individual meeting the conditions described in
6	paragraph (1); or
7	"(B) the participant or beneficiary pro-
8	vides medical and scientific information estab-
9	lishing that the individual's participation in
10	such trial would be appropriate based upon the
11	individual meeting the conditions described in
12	paragraph (1).
13	"(c) Payment.—
14	"(1) In general.—Under this section a group
15	health plan shall provide for payment for routine pa-
16	tient costs described in subsection (a)(2) but is not
17	required to pay for costs of items and services that
18	are customarily provided by the research sponsors
19	free of charge for individuals participating in the
20	trial.
21	"(2) PAYMENT RATE.—In the case of covered
22	items and services provided by—
23	"(A) a participating provider, the payment
24	rate shall be at the acreed upon rate or

1	"(B) a nonparticipating provider, the pay-
2	ment rate shall be at the rate the plan would
3	normally pay for comparable items and services
4	under subparagraph (A).
5	"(d) Approved Clinical Trial Defined.—
6	"(1) In general.—In this section, the term
7	'approved clinical trial' means a clinical research
8	study or clinical investigation that relates to the
9	treatment of cancer (including related symptoms)
10	and is described in any of the following subpara-
11	graphs:
12	"(A) FEDERALLY FUNDED TRIALS.—The
13	study or investigation is approved or funded
14	(which may include funding through in-kind
15	contributions) by one or more of the following:
16	"(i) NIH.—The National Institutes of
17	Health.
18	"(ii) CDC.—The Centers for Disease
19	Control and Prevention.
20	"(iii) AHRQ.—The Agency for Health
21	Care Research and Quality.
22	"(iv) CMS.—The Centers for Medi-
23	care & Medicaid Services.
24	"(v) Cooperative center.—A coop-
25	erative group or center of any of the enti-

1	ties described in clauses (i) through (iv) or
2	the Departments of Defense or Veterans
3	Affairs.
4	"(vi) Center support grantees.—
5	A qualified non-governmental research en-
6	tity identified in the guidelines issued by
7	the National Institutes of Health for cen-
8	ter support grants.
9	"(vii) DOD; VA; DOE.—Any of the fol-
10	lowing if the conditions described in para-
11	graph (2) are met:
12	"(I) The Department of Veterans
13	Affairs.
14	"(II) The Department of De-
15	fense.
16	"(III) The Department of En-
17	ergy.
18	"(B) FDA DRUG TRIAL UNDER IND.—The
19	study or investigation is conducted under an in-
20	vestigational new drug application reviewed by
21	the Food and Drug Administration.
22	"(C) Exempt drug trial.—The study or
23	investigation is a drug trial that is exempt from
24	having such an investigational new drug appli-
25	cation.

1	"(2) Conditions for departments.—The
2	conditions described in this paragraph, for a study
3	or investigation conducted by a Department, are
4	that the study or investigation has been reviewed
5	and approved through a system of peer review that
6	the Secretary determines—
7	"(A) to be comparable to the system of
8	peer review of studies and investigations used
9	by the National Institutes of Health, and
10	"(B) assures unbiased review of the high-
11	est scientific standards by qualified individuals
12	who have no interest in the outcome of the re-
13	view.
14	"(e) Construction.—Nothing in this section shall
15	be construed to limit a plan's coverage with respect to clin-
16	ical trials.".
17	(B) Conforming amendment.—Section
18	4980D(d)(1) of such Code is amended by strik-
19	ing "section 9811" and inserting "sections
20	9811 and 9813".
21	(b) Individual Health Insurance.—Part B of
22	title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act is amended—
23	(1) by redesignating the first subpart 3 (relat-
24	ing to other requirements) as subpart 2: and

1	(2) by adding at the end of subpart 2 the fol-
2	lowing new section:
3	"SEC. 2753. COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING
4	IN APPROVED CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS.
5	"The provisions of section 2707 shall apply to health
6	insurance coverage offered by a health insurance issuer
7	in the individual market in the same manner as they apply
8	to health insurance coverage offered by a health insurance
9	issuer in connection with a group health plan in the small
10	or large group market.".
11	(c) Effective Dates.—
12	(1) Group health plans and group
13	HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—Subject to para-
14	graph (3), the amendments made by subsection (a)
15	apply with respect to group health plans for plan
16	years beginning on or after January 1, 2010.
17	(2) Individual health insurance cov-
18	ERAGE.—The amendment made by subsection (b)
19	applies with respect to health insurance coverage of-
20	fered, sold, issued, renewed, in effect, or operated in
21	the individual market on or after such date.
22	(3) Collective Bargaining exception.—In
23	the case of a group health plan maintained pursuant
24	to one or more collective bargaining agreements be-
25	tween employee representatives and one or more em-

1	ployers ratified before the date of the enactment of
2	this Act, the amendments made by subsection (a)
3	shall not apply to plan years beginning before the
4	later of—
5	(A) the date on which the last collective
6	bargaining agreements relating to the plan ter-
7	minates (determined without regard to any ex-
8	tension thereof agreed to after the date of the
9	enactment of this Act), or
10	(B) January 1, 2010.
11	For purposes of subparagraph (A), any plan amend-
12	ment made pursuant to a collective bargaining
13	agreement relating to the plan which amends the
14	plan solely to conform to any requirement added by
15	subsection (a) shall not be treated as a termination
16	of such collective bargaining agreement.
17	(d) Coordination of Administration.—The Sec-
18	retary of Labor, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the
19	Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure,
20	through the execution of an interagency memorandum of
21	understanding among such Secretaries, that—
22	(1) regulations, rulings, and interpretations
23	issued by such Secretaries relating to the same mat-
24	ter over which two or more such Secretaries have re-
25	sponsibility under the provisions of this Act (and the

- 1 amendments made thereby) are administered so as 2 to have the same effect at all times; and
 - (2) coordination of policies relating to enforcing the same requirements through such Secretaries in order to have a coordinated enforcement strategy that avoids duplication of enforcement efforts and assigns priorities in enforcement.

(e) STUDY AND REPORT.—

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- (1) STUDY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, jointly with the Secretaries of Labor and the Treasury, shall study the impact on group health plans and health insurance issuers of requiring group health plans and health insurance coverage to cover routine patient care costs for individuals with serious and life threatening diseases other than cancer.
- (2) Report to Congress.—Not later than January 1, 2013, such Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that contains an assessment of—
 - (A) any incremental cost to group health plans and health insurance issuers resulting from the provisions of this section; and
 - (B) a projection of expenditures of such plans and issuers if coverage of routine patient care costs in an approved clinical trial program

were extended to individuals entitled to benefits under such plans or health insurance coverage who have a diagnosis other than cancer.

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