

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3485

To allow States to expand basic health programs to cover more low-income individuals at lower cost.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. STABENOW) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To allow States to expand basic health programs to cover more low-income individuals at lower cost.

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 “Basic Health Program  
5 Expansion Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. OPTIONAL EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR BASIC**  
7 **HEALTH PROGRAMS.**

8 Section 1331(e)(1)(B) of the Patient Protection and  
9 Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18051(e)(1)) is amended  
10 to read as follows:

1           “(B)(i) whose household income exceeds  
2           133 percent but does not exceed 200 percent of  
3           the poverty line for the size of the family in-  
4           volved, or, at the option of the State, whose  
5           household income exceeds 133 percent for the  
6           size of the family involved but does not exceed  
7           the income eligibility level for a targeted low-in-  
8           come child established under the State child  
9           health plan under title XXI of the Social Secu-  
10          rity Act; or

11           “(ii) in the case of an alien lawfully  
12          present in the United States, whose income is  
13          not greater than 133 percent of the poverty line  
14          for the size of the family involved but who is  
15          not eligible for the Medicaid program under  
16          title XIX of the Social Security Act by reason  
17          of such alien status;”.

18 **SEC. 3. START-UP FUNDING FLEXIBILITY FOR NEW BASIC**  
19 **HEALTH PROGRAMS.**

20          Section 1331(d)(2) of the Patient Protection and Af-  
21          fordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18051(d)(2)) is amended by  
22          inserting “, or, with respect to the basic health program  
23          of a State, for the 1-year period beginning on the date  
24          on which the Secretary certifies such program, to cover

- 1 State costs associated with developing and implementing
- 2 such program” before the period of the first sentence.

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