

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4997

To amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to allow the spouse of a Federal employee or annuitant to obtain health benefits coverage for self alone, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2002

Mr. FRANK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to allow the spouse of a Federal employee or annuitant to obtain health benefits coverage for self alone, 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. NEW ENROLLMENT OPTION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8905 of title 5, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(i)(1) Under regulations prescribed by the Office, if
8 an employee or annuitant eligible to enroll in a health ben-

1 efits plan under this chapter has a spouse who (but for
2 this subsection) would not otherwise be eligible to enroll,
3 such spouse shall be eligible to enroll, so long as the em-
4 ployee or annuitant is not concurrently enrolled for self
5 and family.

6 “(2) Under this subsection, the spouse—

7 “(A) shall be eligible to enroll in a health bene-
8 fits plan as an individual (but not for self and fam-
9 ily); and

10 “(B) shall be provided the same Government
11 contribution (and shall be subject to the same rates)
12 as if an annuitant.

13 “(3) The regulations shall include—

14 “(A) provisions to ensure that the enrollment
15 option under this subsection shall be made available
16 only if, and to the extent that, the subscription
17 charges for the plan offering such option shall be
18 maintained at a level no higher than they would
19 have been absent this subsection; and

20 “(B) such other provisions as the Office con-
21 siders necessary to carry out the purposes of this
22 subsection.”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section
24 8901(10)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended

1 by inserting “, or as an individual under section 8905(i),”
2 after “family member”.

3 (2) Section 8905(b) of such title is amended by strik-
4 ing “or” at the end of paragraph (1), by inserting “or”
5 at the end of paragraph (2), and by inserting after para-
6 graph (2) the following:

7 “(3) as an individual under subsection (i);”.

8 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
9 this Act shall apply with respect to contract years begin-
10 ning later than 6 months after the date of the enactment
11 of this Act.

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