

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8207

To provide for the establishment of Medicare part E public health plans,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, 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 provide for the establishment of Medicare part E public
health plans, 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 “Choose Medicare Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Social Security Act is amend-
7 ed by adding at the end the following:

1 “TITLE XXII—MEDICARE PART E PUBLIC HEALTH PLANS

2 “SEC. 2201. PUBLIC HEALTH PLANS.—

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
4 lish public health plans (to be known as ‘Medicare part
5 E plans’) that are available in the individual market, small
6 group market, and large group market.

7 “(b) BENEFITS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Medicare part E
9 plan, regardless of whether the plan is offered in the
10 individual market, small group market, or large
11 group market, shall be a qualified health plan within
12 the meaning of section 1301(a) of the Patient Pro-
13 tection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C.
14 18021(a)) that—

15 “(A) meets all requirements applicable to
16 qualified health plans under subtitle D of title
17 I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
18 Act (42 U.S.C. 18021 et seq.) (other than the
19 requirement under section 1301(a)(1)(C)(ii) of
20 such Act) and title XXVII of the Public Health
21 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg et seq.);

22 “(B) provides coverage of—

23 “(i) the essential health benefits de-
24 scribed in section 1302(b) of the Patient

1 Protection and Affordable Care Act (42
2 U.S.C. 18022(b)); and

3 “(ii) all items and services for which
4 benefits are available under title XVIII;

5 “(C) provides gold-level coverage described
6 in section 1302(d)(1)(C) of the Patient Protec-
7 tion and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C.
8 18022(d)(1)(C)); and

9 “(D) provides coverage of abortions and all
10 other reproductive services.

11 “(2) PREEMPTION.—Notwithstanding section
12 1303(a)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable
13 Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18023(a)(1))—

14 “(A) a State may not prohibit a Medicare
15 part E plan from offering the coverage de-
16 scribed in paragraph (1)(D); and

17 “(B) no provision of State law that would
18 prohibit such a plan from offering such cov-
19 erage shall apply to such plan.

20 “(c) ELIGIBILITY; ENROLLMENT.—

21 “(1) AVAILABILITY ON THE EXCHANGES.—The
22 Medicare part E plans offered in the individual and
23 small group markets shall be offered through the
24 Federal and State Exchanges, including the Small

1 Business Health Options Program Exchanges (com-
2 monly referred to as the ‘SHOP Exchanges’).

3 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any individual who is
5 a resident of the United States, as determined
6 by the Secretary under subparagraph (C), and
7 who is not an individual described in subpara-
8 graph (B), is eligible to enroll in a Medicare
9 part E plan.

10 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—An individual de-
11 scribed in this subparagraph is any individual
12 who is—

13 “(i) entitled to, or enrolled for, bene-
14 fits under title XVIII;

15 “(ii) eligible for medical assistance
16 under a State plan under title XIX; or

17 “(iii) enrolled for child health assist-
18 ance or pregnancy-related assistance under
19 a State plan under title XXI.

20 “(C) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall
21 promulgate a rule for determining residency for
22 purposes of subparagraph (A).

23 “(3) EMPLOYER-SPONSORED PLANS.—

24 “(A) EMPLOYER ENROLLMENT.—Effective
25 with respect to the first plan year that begins

1 1 year after the date of enactment of the
2 Choose Medicare Act and each plan year there-
3 after, the Secretary shall provide options for
4 Medicare part E plans in the small group mar-
5 ket and large group market that are voluntary,
6 and available to all employers.

7 “(B) GROUP HEALTH PLANS.—The Sec-
8 retary, acting through the Administrator for the
9 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, at
10 the request of a plan sponsor, shall serve as a
11 third-party administrator of a group health
12 plan that is a Medicare part E plan offered by
13 such sponsor.

14 “(C) PORTABILITY FOR EMPLOYER-SPON-
15 SORED PLANS.—The Secretary shall develop a
16 process for allowing individuals enrolled in a
17 Medicare part E plan offered in the small group
18 market or large group market to maintain
19 health insurance coverage through a Medicare
20 part E plan if the individual subsequently loses
21 eligibility for enrollment in such a plan based
22 on termination of the employment relationship.
23 The ability to maintain such coverage shall
24 exist regardless of whether the individual has
25 the option to enroll in other health insurance

1 coverage, including coverage offered in the indi-
2 vidual market or through a subsequent em-
3 ployer.

4 “(d) PREMIUMS.—The Secretary shall establish pre-
5 mium rates for the Medicare part E plans that—

6 “(1) are adjusted based on—

7 “(A) whether the plan is offered in the in-
8 dividual market, small group market, or large
9 group market; and

10 “(B) the applicable rating area;

11 “(2) are at a level sufficient to fully finance—

12 “(A) the costs of health benefits provided
13 by such plans; and

14 “(B) administrative costs related to oper-
15 ating the plans; and

16 “(3) comply with the requirements under sec-
17 tion 2701 of the Public Health Service Act (42
18 U.S.C. 300gg), including for such plans that are of-
19 fered in the large group market.

20 “(e) PROVIDERS AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
22 lish a rate schedule for reimbursing types of health
23 care providers furnishing items and services under
24 the Medicare part E plans at rates that are con-

1 sistent with the negotiations described in paragraph
2 (2) and are necessary to maintain network adequacy.

3 “(2) MANNER OF NEGOTIATION.—The Sec-
4 retary shall negotiate the rates described in para-
5 graph (1) in a manner that results in payment rates
6 that are not lower, in the aggregate, than rates
7 under title XVIII, and not higher, in the aggregate,
8 than the average rates paid by other health insur-
9 ance issuers offering health insurance coverage
10 through an Exchange.

11 “(3) PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A health care provider
13 that is a participating provider of services or
14 supplier under the Medicare program under
15 title XVIII on the date of enactment of the
16 Choose Medicare Act shall be a participating
17 provider for Medicare part E plans.

18 “(B) ADDITIONAL PROVIDERS.—The Sec-
19 retary shall establish a process to allow health
20 care providers not described in subparagraph
21 (A) to become participating providers for Medi-
22 care part E plans.

23 “(4) LIMITATIONS ON BALANCE BILLING.—The
24 limitations on balance billing pursuant to the provi-
25 sions of section 1866(a)(1)(A) shall apply to partici-

1 participating providers for Medicare part E plans in the
2 same manner as such provisions apply to partici-
3 participating providers under the Medicare program.

4 “(f) ENCOURAGING USE OF ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT
5 MODELS.—The Secretary shall, as applicable, utilize alter-
6 native payment models, including those described in sec-
7 tion 1833(z)(3)(C), as added by section 101(e)(2) of the
8 Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015
9 (Public Law 114–10), in making payments for items and
10 services (including prescription drugs) furnished under
11 Medicare part E plans. The payment rates under such al-
12 ternative payment models shall comply with the require-
13 ment for negotiated rates under subsection (e)(2).

14 “(g) PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.—The Secretary shall
15 apply the provisions of part E of title XI to prescription
16 drugs under Medicare part E plans in the same manner
17 as such provisions apply with respect to selected drugs
18 under part E of title XI.

19 “(h) APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 “(1) START UP FUNDING.—For purposes of es-
21 tablishing the Medicare part E plans, there is appro-
22 priated to the Secretary, out of any funds in the
23 Treasury not otherwise obligated, \$2,000,000,000,
24 for fiscal year 2025.

1 “(2) INITIAL RESERVES.—There is appro-
2 priated to the Secretary, out of any funds in the
3 Treasury not otherwise obligated, such sums as may
4 be necessary, based on projected enrollment in the
5 Medicare part E plans in the first plan year in
6 which such plans are offered, to provide reserves for
7 the purpose of paying claims filed during the initial
8 90-day period of such plan year.

9 “(3) CLARIFICATION.—Any provision of law re-
10 stricting the use of Federal funds with respect to
11 any reproductive health service shall not apply to
12 funds appropriated under paragraph (1) or (2).

13 “(i) HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUER.—With respect to
14 any Medicare part E plan, the Secretary shall be consid-
15 ered a health insurance issuer, within the meaning of sec-
16 tion 2791(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
17 300gg-91(b)).”.

18 (b) APPLICATION OF EXCISE TAX FOR NONCOMPLI-
19 ANCE WITH NEGOTIATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section
20 5000D(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
21 amended by adding at the end the following new sentence:
22 “Such term shall apply to any drug treated in the same
23 manner as a drug described in the preceding sentence by
24 reason of section 2201(g) of the Social Security Act.”.

1 **SEC. 3. NOTICE AND NAVIGATOR REFERRAL FOR EMPLOY-**
2 **EES UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS**
3 **ACT OF 1938.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 18B of the Fair Labor
5 Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 218b) is amended—

6 (1) in the heading, by striking “**TO**” and insert-
7 ing “**AND NAVIGATOR REFERRAL FOR**”;

8 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
9 section (c); and

10 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(b) NAVIGATOR REFERRAL.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An employer described in
14 paragraph (3) shall refer each full-time employee (as
15 defined in section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue
16 Code of 1986) to—

17 “(A) an entity that serves as a navigator
18 under section 1311(i) of the Patient Protection
19 and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18031(i))
20 for the Exchange operating in the State of the
21 employer; or

22 “(B) if the Exchange operating in the
23 State of the employer does not have an entity
24 serving as such a navigator, another entity that
25 shall carry out equivalent activities as such a
26 navigator.

1 “(2) REFERRAL.—The referral described in
2 paragraph (1) shall occur—

3 “(A) at the time the employer hires the
4 employee; or

5 “(B) on the effective date described in sub-
6 section (c)(2) with respect to an employee who
7 is currently employed by the employer on such
8 date.

9 “(3) EMPLOYER.—An employer described in
10 this paragraph is any employer that—

11 “(A) does not provide an eligible employer-
12 sponsored plan as defined in section
13 5000A(f)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of
14 1986; or

15 “(B) provides such an eligible employer-
16 sponsored plan, but the plan is determined—

17 “(i) to be unaffordable to the em-
18 ployee under clause (i) of section
19 36B(c)(2)(C) of such Code; or

20 “(ii) to not provide the required min-
21 imum value under clause (ii) of such sec-
22 tion.”; and

23 (4) in subsection (c), as so redesignated—

1 (A) in the heading, by striking “EFFECTIVE
2 TIVE DATE” and inserting “EFFECTIVE
3 DATES”;

4 (B) by striking “Subsection (a)” and in-
5 serting the following:

6 “(1) NOTICE.—Subsection (a);”; and

7 (C) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(2) NAVIGATOR REFERRAL.—Subsection (b)
9 shall take effect with respect to employers in a State
10 beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date
11 of enactment of the Choose Medicare Act.”.

12 (b) STUDY.—Not later than January 1, 2029, the
13 Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct
14 a study on the impact of the requirements under section
15 18B of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C.
16 218b), including the amendments made by subsection (a),
17 on the rate of individuals without minimum essential cov-
18 erage as defined in section 5000A(f) of the Internal Rev-
19 enue Code of 1986 in the United States and in each State.

20 (c) FUNDING FOR NAVIGATOR PROGRAM.—Section
21 1311(i)(6) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
22 Act (42 U.S.C. 18031(i)(6)) is amended—

23 (1) by striking “Grants” and inserting the fol-
24 lowing:

25 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants”; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
3 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
4 such sums as may be necessary to address ca-
5 pacity limitations of entities serving as naviga-
6 tors through a grant under this subsection.”.

7 **SEC. 4. PROTECTING AGAINST HIGH OUT-OF-POCKET EX-**
8 **PENDITURES FOR MEDICARE FEE-FOR-SERV-**
9 **ICE BENEFITS.**

10 Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
11 1395 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing new section:

13 “PROTECTION AGAINST HIGH OUT-OF-POCKET
14 EXPENDITURES

15 “SEC. 1899C. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
16 any other provision of this title, in the case of an indi-
17 vidual entitled to, or enrolled for, benefits under part A
18 or enrolled in part B, if the amount of the out-of-pocket
19 cost-sharing of such individual for a year (beginning with
20 2026) equals or exceeds the annual out-of-pocket limit
21 under subsection (b) for that year, the individual shall not
22 be responsible for additional out-of-pocket cost-sharing in-
23 curred during that year.

24 “(b) ANNUAL OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT.—

25 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the annual
26 out-of-pocket limit under this subsection shall be—

1 “(A) for 2026, \$6,700; or

2 “(B) for a subsequent year, the amount
3 specified in this subsection for the preceding
4 year increased or decreased by the percentage
5 change in the medical care component of the
6 Consumer Price Index for All Urban Con-
7 sumers for the 12-month period ending with
8 June of such preceding year.

9 “(2) ROUNDING.—If any amount determined
10 under paragraph (1)(B) is not a multiple of \$5, such
11 amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of
12 \$5.

13 “(c) OUT-OF-POCKET COST-SHARING DEFINED.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)
15 and (3), in this section, the term ‘out-of-pocket cost-
16 sharing’ means, with respect to an individual, the
17 amount of the expenses incurred by the individual
18 that are attributable to—

19 “(A) deductibles, coinsurance, and copay-
20 ments applicable under part A or B; or

21 “(B) for items and services that would
22 have otherwise been covered under part A or B
23 but for the exhaustion of those benefits.

24 “(2) CERTAIN COSTS NOT INCLUDED.—

1 “(A) NON-COVERED ITEMS AND SERV-
2 ICES.—Expenses incurred for items and serv-
3 ices which are not covered under part A or B
4 shall not be considered incurred expenses for
5 purposes of determining out-of-pocket cost-
6 sharing under paragraph (1).

7 “(B) ITEMS AND SERVICES NOT FUR-
8 NISHED ON AN ASSIGNMENT-RELATED BASIS.—
9 If an item or service is furnished to an indi-
10 vidual under this title and is not furnished on
11 an assignment-related basis, any additional ex-
12 penses the individual incurs above the amount
13 the individual would have incurred if the item
14 or service was furnished on an assignment-re-
15 lated basis shall not be considered incurred ex-
16 penses for purposes of determining out-of-pock-
17 et cost-sharing under paragraph (1).

18 “(3) SOURCE OF PAYMENT.—For purposes of
19 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider expenses
20 to be incurred by the individual without regard to
21 whether the individual or another person, including
22 a State program, an employer, a medicare supple-
23 mental policy, or other third-party coverage, has
24 paid for such expenses.

1 “(d) ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ANNUAL OUT-OF-
2 POCKET LIMIT.—The Secretary shall (beginning in 2025)
3 announce (in a manner intended to provide notice to all
4 interested parties) the annual out-of-pocket limit under
5 this section that will be applicable for the succeeding
6 year.”.

7 **SEC. 5. ENHANCEMENT OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE CREDIT.**

8 (a) USE OF GOLD LEVEL PLAN FOR BENCHMARK.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) of section
10 36B(b)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
11 is amended by striking “applicable second lowest
12 cost silver plan” and inserting “applicable second
13 lowest cost gold plan”.

14 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATED TO
15 AFFORDABILITY.—Section 36B(c)(4)(C)(i)(I) of
16 such Code is amended by striking “second lowest
17 cost silver plan” and inserting “second lowest cost
18 gold plan”.

19 (3) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Sub-
20 paragraphs (B) and (C) of section 36B(b)(3) of such
21 Code are each amended by striking “silver plan”
22 each place it appears in the text and the heading
23 and inserting “gold plan”.

24 (b) PERMANENT EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY
25 RULES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 36B(c)(1) of the In-
2 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

3 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “but
4 does not exceed 400 percent”, and

5 (B) by striking subparagraph (E).

6 (2) DETERMINATION OF APPLICABLE PERCENT-
7 AGE.—Subparagraph (A) of section 36B(b)(3) of
8 such Code is amended by striking all that precedes
9 the table in clause (iii)(II) and inserting the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(A) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For
12 purposes of paragraph (2), except as provided
13 in clause (ii), the applicable percentage for any
14 taxable year shall be the percentage such that
15 the applicable percentage for any taxpayer
16 whose household income is within an income
17 tier specified in the following table shall in-
18 crease, on a sliding scale in a linear manner,
19 from the initial premium percentage to the final
20 premium percentage specified in such table for
21 such income tier:”.

22 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
23 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
24 December 31, 2023.

1 **SEC. 6. ENHANCEMENTS FOR REDUCED COST SHARING.**

2 (a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—Section
3 1402(b)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 18071(b)(1)) is amended by striking “sil-
5 ver level” and inserting “gold level”.

6 (b) MODIFICATION OF AMOUNT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1402(c)(2) of the
8 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 “(2) ADDITIONAL REDUCTION.—The Secretary
11 shall establish procedures under which the issuer of
12 a qualified health plan to which this section applies
13 shall further reduce cost-sharing under the plan in
14 a manner sufficient to—

15 “(A) in the case of an eligible insured
16 whose household income is not less than 100
17 percent but not more than 133 percent of the
18 poverty line for a family of the size involved, in-
19 crease the plan’s share of the total allowed
20 costs of benefits provided under the plan to 94
21 percent of such costs;

22 “(B) in the case of an eligible insured
23 whose household income is more than 133 per-
24 cent but not more than 150 percent of the pov-
25 erty line for a family of the size involved, in-
26 crease the plan’s share of the total allowed

1 costs of benefits provided under the plan to 92
2 percent of such costs;

3 “(C) in the case of an eligible insured
4 whose household income is more than 150 per-
5 cent but not more than 200 percent of the pov-
6 erty line for a family of the size involved, in-
7 crease the plan’s share of the total allowed
8 costs of benefits provided under the plan to 90
9 percent of such costs;

10 “(D) in the case of an eligible insured
11 whose household income is more than 200 per-
12 cent but not more than 300 percent of the pov-
13 erty line for a family of the size involved, in-
14 crease the plan’s share of the total allowed
15 costs of benefits provided under the plan to 85
16 percent of such costs; and

17 “(E) in the case of an eligible insured
18 whose household income is more than 300 per-
19 cent but not more than 400 percent of the pov-
20 erty line for a family of the size involved, in-
21 crease the plan’s share of the total allowed
22 costs of benefits provided under the plan to 80
23 percent of such costs.”.

1 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Clause (i) of
2 section 1402(c)(1)(B) of such Act is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
5 shall ensure the reduction under this para-
6 graph shall not result in an increase in the
7 plan’s share of the total allowed costs of
8 benefits provided under the plan above—

9 “(I) 94 percent in the case of an
10 eligible insured described in para-
11 graph (2)(A);

12 “(II) 92 percent in the case of an
13 eligible insured described in para-
14 graph (2)(B);

15 “(III) 90 percent in the case of
16 an eligible insured described in para-
17 graph (2)(C);

18 “(IV) 85 percent in the case of
19 an eligible insured described in para-
20 graph (2)(D); and

21 “(V) 80 percent in the case of an
22 eligible insured described in para-
23 graph (2)(E).”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
2 this section shall apply to plan years beginning after De-
3 cember 31, 2024.

4 **SEC. 7. REINSURANCE AND AFFORDABILITY FUND.**

5 Part 5 of subtitle D of title I of the Patient Protec-
6 tion and Affordable Care Act is amended by inserting
7 after section 1341 (42 U.S.C. 18061) the following:

8 **“SEC. 1341A. REINSURANCE AND AFFORDABILITY FUND**
9 **FOR THE INDIVIDUAL MARKET IN EACH**
10 **STATE.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
12 with the National Association of Insurance Commis-
13 sioners, shall establish a program to enable each State,
14 for any plan year beginning in the 3-year period beginning
15 January 1, 2025, to—

16 “(1) provide reinsurance payments to health in-
17 surance issuers with respect to individuals enrolled
18 under individual health insurance coverage offered
19 by such issuers; or

20 “(2) provide assistance (other than through
21 payments described in paragraph (1)) to reduce out-
22 of-pocket costs, such as copayments, coinsurance,
23 premiums, and deductibles, of individuals enrolled
24 under qualified health plans offered in the individual
25 market through an Exchange.

1 “(b) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is appropriated, out
2 of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
3 \$30,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 to
4 2027 for purposes of establishing and administering the
5 program established under this section. Such amount shall
6 remain available until expended.”.

7 **SEC. 8. EXPANDING RATING RULES TO LARGE GROUP MAR-**
8 **KET.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2701(a) of the Public
10 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg(a)) is amended—

- 11 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “small”; and
12 (2) by striking paragraph (5).

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 subsection (a) shall apply to plans offered in the first plan
15 year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act and
16 any plan year thereafter.

17 **SEC. 9. PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS FROM EXCESSIVE,**
18 **UNJUSTIFIED, OR UNFAIRLY DISCRIMINA-**
19 **TORY RATES.**

20 (a) PROTECTION FROM EXCESSIVE, UNJUSTIFIED,
21 OR UNFAIRLY DISCRIMINATORY RATES.—Section 2794 of
22 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–94) is
23 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
24 section:

1 “(e) PROTECTION FROM EXCESSIVE, UNJUSTIFIED,
2 OR UNFAIRLY DISCRIMINATORY RATES.—

3 “(1) AUTHORITY OF STATES.—Nothing in this
4 section shall be construed to prohibit a State from
5 imposing requirements (including requirements re-
6 lating to rate review standards and procedures and
7 information reporting) on health insurance issuers
8 with respect to rates that are in addition to the re-
9 quirements of this section and are more protective of
10 consumers than such requirements.

11 “(2) CONSULTATION IN RATE REVIEW PROC-
12 ESS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary
13 shall consult with the National Association of Insur-
14 ance Commissioners and consumer groups.

15 “(3) DETERMINATION OF WHO CONDUCTS RE-
16 VIEWS FOR EACH STATE.—The Secretary shall de-
17 termine, after the date of enactment of this sub-
18 section and periodically thereafter, the following:

19 “(A) In which markets in each State the
20 State insurance commissioner or relevant State
21 regulator shall undertake the corrective actions
22 under paragraph (4), based on the Secretary’s
23 determination that the State insurance commis-
24 sioner or relevant State regulator is adequately

1 undertaking and utilizing such actions in that
2 market.

3 “(B) In which markets in each State the
4 Secretary shall undertake the corrective actions
5 under paragraph (4), in cooperation with the
6 relevant State insurance commissioner or State
7 regulator, based on the Secretary’s determina-
8 tion that the State is not adequately under-
9 taking and utilizing such actions in that mar-
10 ket.

11 “(4) CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR EXCESSIVE, UN-
12 JUSTIFIED, OR UNFAIRLY DISCRIMINATORY
13 RATES.—In accordance with the process established
14 under this section, the Secretary or the relevant
15 State insurance commissioner or State regulator
16 shall take corrective actions to ensure that any ex-
17 cessive, unjustified, or unfairly discriminatory rates
18 are corrected prior to implementation, or as soon as
19 possible thereafter, through mechanisms such as—

20 “(A) denying rates;

21 “(B) modifying rates; or

22 “(C) requiring rebates to consumers.

23 “(5) NONCOMPLIANCE.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Failure to comply
25 with any corrective action taken by the Sec-

1 retary under this subsection may result in the
2 application of civil monetary penalties described
3 in subparagraph (B) and, if the Secretary de-
4 termines appropriate, make the plan involved
5 ineligible for classification as a qualified health
6 plan.

7 “(B) CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of
9 section 1128A of the Social Security Act,
10 other than subsection (a) and (b) and the
11 first sentence of subsection (c)(1) of such
12 section, shall apply to civil monetary pen-
13 alties under this paragraph in the same
14 manner as such provisions apply to a pen-
15 alty or proceeding under section 1128A of
16 the Social Security Act.

17 “(ii) AMOUNT.—The provisions of
18 subparagraph (C) of section 2723(b)(2)
19 shall apply to civil monetary penalties
20 under this paragraph in the same manner
21 as such provisions apply to a penalty under
22 such section.”.

23 (b) CLARIFICATION OF REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

24 Section 2794 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
25 300gg–94) is further amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
3 “PREMIUM” and inserting “RATE”;

4 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “unrea-
5 sonable increases in premiums” and inserting
6 “potentially excessive, unjustified, or unfairly
7 discriminatory rates, including premiums,”; and

8 (C) in paragraph (2)—

9 (i) by striking “an unreasonable pre-
10 mium increase” and inserting “a poten-
11 tially excessive, unjustified, or unfairly dis-
12 criminatory rate”;

13 (ii) by striking “the increase” and in-
14 serting “the rate”; and

15 (iii) by striking “such increases” and
16 inserting “such rates”; and

17 (2) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
19 “PREMIUM” and inserting “RATE”;

20 (B) by striking “premium increases” each
21 place it appears and inserting “rates”;

22 (C) in paragraph (1)—

23 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
24 ing “PREMIUM INCREASE” and inserting
25 “RATE”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “excessive or unjustified” and inserting
3 “excessive, unjustified, or unfairly discrimi-
4 natory”; and

5 (D) in paragraph (2)—

6 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
7 ing “PREMIUM INCREASES” and inserting
8 “RATES”; and

9 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
10 “premium” and inserting “rate”.

11 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1311(e)(2)
12 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42
13 U.S.C. 18031(e)(2)) is amended by striking “excessive or
14 unjustified premium increases” and inserting “excessive,
15 unjustified, or unfairly discriminatory rates”.

16 (d) APPLICABILITY TO GRANDFATHERED HEALTH
17 PLANS.—Section 1251(a)(5) of the Patient Protection
18 and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18011(a)(5)) is
19 amended—

20 (1) by striking “Sections 2799A–1” and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Sections 2799A–1”;

23 and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(B) ENSURING THAT CONSUMERS GET
2 VALUE FOR THEIR DOLLARS.—Section 2794 of
3 the Public Health Service Act shall apply to
4 grandfathered health plans for plan years be-
5 ginning on or after January 1, 2025.”.

6 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of
8 this Act and shall be implemented with respect to health
9 plans beginning not later than January 1, 2025.

10 **SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

11 It is the sense of the Congress that—

12 (1) the Federal Government, acting in its ca-
13 pacity as an insurer, employer, or health care pro-
14 vider, should serve as a model for the Nation to en-
15 sure coverage of all reproductive services; and

16 (2) all restrictions on coverage of reproductive
17 services in the private insurance market should end.

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