

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2096

To amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make available to Federal employees the option of obtaining health benefits coverage for dependent parents.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 1999

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

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## A BILL

To amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make available to Federal employees the option of obtaining health benefits coverage for dependent parents.

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 “Federal Family Health  
5 Coverage Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. NEW ENROLLMENT OPTION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 8905 of  
8 title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1       “(a) An employee may enroll in an approved health  
2 benefits plan described by section 8903 or 8903a either—

3               “(1) as an individual;

4               “(2) for self and family; or

5               “(3) for self and extended family.”.

6       (b) MEMBER OF EXTENDED FAMILY DEFINED.—

7 Section 8901 of title 5, United States Code, is amended  
8 by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (10), by strik-  
9 ing the period at the end of paragraph (11) and inserting  
10 “; and”, and by adding at the end the following:

11               “(12) ‘member of the extended family’ means,  
12 with respect to an employee or annuitant, any indi-  
13 vidual who is—

14                       “(A) a member of the family of such em-  
15 ployee or annuitant; or

16                       “(B) a dependent parent of such employee  
17 or annuitant.”.

18       (c) TEST FOR DEPENDENCY OF A PARENT.—Para-

19 graph (9) of section 8901 of title 5, United States Code,  
20 is amended by striking “(9)” and inserting “(9)(A)”, by  
21 inserting “and” after the semicolon, and by adding at the  
22 end the following:

23               “(B) ‘dependent’, in the case of any parent,  
24 means a parent at least half of whose support is  
25 contributed by the employee or annuitant involved,

1 as determined under regulations prescribed by the  
2 Office, but does not include an individual who—

3 “(i) is entitled to benefits under part A of  
4 title XVIII of the Social Security Act; or

5 “(ii) has adequate health benefits under  
6 another group health plan, as determined under  
7 such regulations;”.

8 **SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF GOVERNMENT CONTRIBU-**  
9 **TIONS.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (1) of section 8906(a)  
11 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-  
13 graph (A);

14 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-  
15 paragraph (B) and inserting “; and”; and

16 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(C) enrollments under this chapter for self and  
19 extended family.”.

20 (b) **FIRST-YEAR RULE.**—The Office of Personnel  
21 Management shall by regulation establish the method by  
22 which the provisions of section 8906 of title 5, United  
23 States Code, relating to computation of Government con-  
24 tributions, shall be applied in connection with coverage for

1 self and extended family during the first year in which  
2 such coverage is provided.

3 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

4 Title 5, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in section 8902(e) by striking “exclusive of  
6 family members,” and inserting “exclusive of family  
7 members and dependent parents,”;

8 (2) in the first sentence of section 8902(g), sub-  
9 sections (a)(1)(B), (j) and (k)(1) of section 8902,  
10 and section 8903(1) by inserting “dependent par-  
11 ent,” after “family member,”;

12 (3) in subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 8905  
13 by inserting “or extended family” after “family”;

14 (4) in subsection (e) of section 8905 by adding  
15 at the end the following: “The Office shall by regula-  
16 tion ensure that the purposes of this subsection con-  
17 tinue to be carried after coverage for self and ex-  
18 tended family becomes available under this chap-  
19 ter.”;

20 (5) in sections 8906(e)(1)(A) and 8913(c) by  
21 inserting “or extended family” after “family”; and

22 (6) in section 8907(b) by inserting “or depend-  
23 ent parents” after “family members” each place it  
24 appears.

1 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2       The amendments made by this Act shall apply with  
3 respect to coverage during years beginning at least 6  
4 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

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