

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2344

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the employer subsidy payment provisions under the Medicare prescription drug program to State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 1, 2006

Mr. SCHUMER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the employer subsidy payment provisions under the Medicare prescription drug program to State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs.

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 “Existing Drug Cov-
5 erage Protection Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. MEDICARE SUBSIDY PAYMENTS TO STATE PHARMA-**
2 **CEUTICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1860D–23 of the Social
4 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–133) is amended by add-
5 ing at the end the following new subsection:

6 “(e) **SUBSIDY PAYMENT.**—The provisions of section
7 1860D–22 shall apply to a State Pharmaceutical Assist-
8 ance Program (as defined in subsection (b)) and the State
9 offering such Program in the same manner as such provi-
10 sions apply to employment-based retiree health coverage
11 (as defined in subsection (c)(1) of such section) and the
12 sponsor of such coverage.”.

13 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
14 this section shall take effect on January 1, 2007.

○