

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to provide nurse home visitation services under Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SALAZAR (for himself and Mr. SPECTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to provide nurse home visitation services under Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program.

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 “Healthy Children and
5 Families Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

1 (1) Medicaid and the State Children’s Health
2 Insurance Program have collectively provided health
3 insurance coverage to over 38,000,000 low-income
4 pregnant women and children.

5 (2) Evidence-based nurse home visitation pro-
6 grams can improve the health status of low-income
7 pregnant women and children enrolled in Medicaid
8 and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program
9 by promoting access to prenatal and well-baby care,
10 reducing pre-term births, reducing high-risk preg-
11 nancies, increasing time intervals between first and
12 subsequent births, and improving child cognitive, so-
13 cial and behavioral skills, and development.

14 (3) In addition to health benefits, evidence-
15 based nurse home visitation programs have been
16 proven to increase maternal employment and eco-
17 nomic self-sufficiency and significantly reduce child
18 abuse and neglect, child arrests, maternal arrests,
19 and involvement in the criminal justice system.

20 (4) Evidence-based nurse home visitation pro-
21 grams are cost effective, yielding a 5-to-1 return on
22 investment for every dollar spent on services, and
23 producing a net benefit to society of \$34,000 per
24 high risk family served.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to encour-
2 age States to utilize evidence-based nurse home visitation
3 services for low-income pregnant mothers and children
4 to—

5 (1) improve the prenatal health of children;

6 (2) improve pregnancy outcomes;

7 (3) improve child health and development;

8 (4) improve child development and mental
9 health related to elementary school readiness;

10 (5) improve family stability and economic self-
11 sufficiency;

12 (6) reduce the incidence of child abuse and ne-
13 glect;

14 (7) reduce maternal and child involvement in
15 the criminal justice system; and

16 (8) increase birth intervals between preg-
17 nancies.

18 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL OPTIONS FOR STATES TO PROVIDE**

19 **NURSE HOME VISITATION SERVICES.**

20 (a) SCHIP.—Section 2110(a)(15) of the Social Secu-
21 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1397jj(a)(15)) is amended—

22 (1) by inserting “(A)” after “(15)”; and

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

24 “(B)(i) Evidence-based nurse home visitation
25 services (such as services related to improving pre-

1 natal health, pregnancy outcomes, child health and
2 development, school readiness, family stability and
3 economic self-sufficiency, reducing child abuse, ne-
4 glect, and injury, reducing maternal and child in-
5 volvement in the criminal justice system, and in-
6 creasing birth intervals between pregnancies) on be-
7 half of a targeted low-income child who has not at-
8 tained age 2 and is the first live birth to a biological
9 mother, but only if such services are provided in ac-
10 cordance with outcome standards that have been
11 replicated in multiple, rigorous, randomized con-
12 trolled trials in multiple sites, with outcomes that
13 improve prenatal health of children, pregnancy out-
14 comes, child health, child development, academic
15 achievement, and mental health, reduce child abuse,
16 neglect, and injury, reduce maternal and child in-
17 volvement in the criminal justice system, increase
18 birth intervals between pregnancies, and improve
19 maternal employment.”.

20 (b) MEDICAID.—Section 1905(a) of the Social Secu-
21 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (27), by striking “and” at the
23 end;

24 (2) by redesignating paragraph (28) as para-
25 graph (29); and

1 (3) by inserting after paragraph (27) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(28) evidence-based nurse home visitation
4 services (such as services related to improving pre-
5 natal health, pregnancy outcomes, child health and
6 development, school readiness, family stability and
7 economic self-sufficiency, reducing child abuse, ne-
8 glect, and injury, reducing maternal and child in-
9 volvement in the criminal justice system, and in-
10 creasing birth intervals between pregnancies) for a
11 first-time pregnant woman or on behalf of a child
12 who has not attained age 2 and is the first live birth
13 to a biological mother, but only if such services are
14 provided in accordance with outcome standards that
15 have been replicated in multiple, rigorous, random-
16 ized controlled trials in multiple sites, with outcomes
17 that improve prenatal health of children, pregnancy
18 outcomes, child health, child development, academic
19 achievement, and mental health, reduce child abuse,
20 neglect, and injury, reduce maternal and child in-
21 volvement in the criminal justice system, increase
22 birth intervals between pregnancies, and improve
23 maternal employment; and”.

24 (c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in the
25 amendments made by this Act shall be construed as affect-

1 ing the ability of a State under the Medicaid program
2 under title XIX of the Social Security Act or the State
3 Children's Health Insurance Program under title XXI of
4 such Act to provide nurse home visitation services as part
5 of another class of items and services falling within the
6 definition of medical assistance or child health assistance
7 under such titles, or as an administrative expenditure for
8 which payment is made under section 1903(a) or 2105(a)
9 of such Act, on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

10 (d) **TIMELY APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS OR PRO-**
11 **POSALS.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services
12 shall, in a timely manner, review and notify a State of
13 the Secretary's approval or disapproval of—

14 (1) any proposed amendment to a State Med-
15 icaid plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act
16 to provide nurse home visitation services as medical
17 assistance described in section 1905(a)(28) of such
18 Act;

19 (2) any proposed amendment to a State child
20 health plan under title XXI of such Act to provide
21 such services as child health assistance described in
22 section 2110(a)(15)(B) of such Act; or

23 (3) any proposal submitted under section 1115
24 of such Act to provide nurse home visitation services
25 described in sections 1905(a)(28) and

1 2110(a)(15)(B) of such Act under a waiver approved
2 under such section 1115.

3 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this section take effect on October 1, 2007, and apply to
5 child health assistance provided under title XXI of the So-
6 cial Security Act and medical assistance provided under
7 title XIX of such Act on or after that date.