



Bill Summary

H.R. 4993: Vaccines for the Uninsured Adults Act of 2008

Rep. Henry A. Waxman

Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

On December 13, 2007, Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, and Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard introduced H.R. 4705, the "Vaccines for the Uninsured Adults Act of 2007".

Section 1: Vaccines for the Uninsured Adults Act of 2008

Section 2: Establishes a Vaccines for Uninsured Adults (VFUA) program to provide routinely recommended vaccines to eligible adults. This program is modeled on the Vaccines for Children Program. Eligible adults include: uninsured adults; adults who are uninsured with respect to the vaccine and receives the vaccine at a Federally Qualified Health Center, a 340B entity, or any public clinic; adults who are uninsured with respect to the vaccine and receive the vaccine while incarcerated in a Federal, State, or local penal or correctional institution. The VFUA would pay for the costs to administer the vaccine as well as the purchase costs.

This section also has language that prohibits insurance companies from dropping coverage for vaccines that are covered under this program as of July 1, 2008.

The program would be mandatory spending.

This section also directs the secretary to develop and maintain plans to respond to vaccine shortages and to implement a plan to educate the public about adult immunization.

Section 3: This section amends the 317 program. It authorizes appropriation for state activities to increase adult immunization rates. It also requires states which get 317 grants to develop plans to respond to vaccine shortages.

Section 4: This section prohibits Medicaid cost-sharing for adult vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Section 5: This section directs CMS to establish standards for the measurement of adult immunizations. It also directs CMS to study the feasibility of using adult immunizations as a quality measure. It also directs CMS to establish standards to measure health care worker flu immunization.

Section 6: Directs the Secretary to study the feasibility of including health care worker flu immunization rates as a performance measure for accreditation under Medicare.

Section 7: Requires FEHBP coverage of routinely recommended adult immunizations.