

S 1935

Universal Secure Access to Health Care Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Nov 23, 2003

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S15653-15663)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S15653-15663) (Nov 23, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/1935>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Corzine, Jon S. [D-NJ]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 24, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Universal Secure Access to Health Care Act of 2003 - Amends the Public Health Service Act to add a new title XXVIII (Universal Health Insurance Coverage). Requires each employer of at least 50 full-time employees to offer to enroll each of its employees and their families in a standard health benefit plan providing benefits for health care items and services that are actuarially equivalent to or greater in value than the benefits offered as of January 1, 2000, under the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Standard Option Plan provided under the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP).

Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a Federal program to award grants to States for State premium assistance programs for low-income workers and small business employers.

Authorizes a small business employer of at least 75 full-time employees to enroll its employees in an FEHBP plan or the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (SSA) if such employees are at least 50 years of age.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) to allow a tax deduction for self-employed individuals equal to 100 percent of the amount paid during the taxable year for insurance which constitutes medical care for the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, and the taxpayer's dependents.

Amends SSA to add a new part D (Purchase of Medicare Benefits by Certain Individuals Age 62-to-65 Years of Age).

Creates in the Treasury the Medicare Early Access Trust Fund for collected premiums and other revenues for use in funding the new part D program.

Provides access to Medicare benefits for displaced workers 55 to 62 years of age.

Amends Federal civil service law to make FEHBP coverage available for the self-employed.

Establishes a MediKids Program under a new SSA title XXII to allow certain eligible individuals born after December 31, 2002, who have not attained age 23, to enroll for benefits specified by the Secretary, including early and periodic screening, diagnostic services, and treatment services under Medicaid (SSA title XIX), and prescription drugs and biologicals.

Creates in the Treasury the MediKids Trust Fund for collected premiums and other revenues for use in funding the MediKids Program.

Amends SSA title XVIII to increase the membership of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, with the initial terms of additional members staggered.

Amends the IRC to: (1) impose a MediKids premium tax in the case of any taxpayer (with certain exceptions) required to pay a premium under the MediKids Program for an eligible individual; and (2) provide for a refundable tax credit for 50 percent of cost-sharing expenses under the MediKids Program.

Directs the Secretary of the Treasury to propose a gradual schedule of progressive tax changes to fund the MediKids Program as the number of enrollees grows in the out-years.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 23, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 23, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S15652-15653)
- **Nov 23, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S15653-15663)