



**H.R. \_\_\_\_ – A bill to provide for the extension of transitional medical assistance (TMA), the abstinence education program, and the qualifying individuals (QI) program, and for other purposes**

**FLOOR SITUATION**

H.R. \_\_\_\_ is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation is expected to be introduced later today. Similar legislation is expected to pass the Senate by unanimous consent as well.

**SUMMARY**

H.R. \_\_\_\_ contains a 3-month extension of the Qualifying Individuals (QI) program, the Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) program, and the abstinence education program. All three programs expire on September 30, 2007.

According to a preliminary Congressional Budget Office estimate, extending TMA and abstinence education programs for 3 months would cost approximately \$187 million. The 3-month extension of the QI program would cost approximately \$75 million.

The bill extends a Social Security Income (SSI) web-based asset verification demonstration project to the Medicaid program through 2012. CBO estimates this will save \$420 million over the next five years. The bill also includes a 6-month delay of the requirement to use tamper-resistant prescription pads under Medicaid.

*Note: The requirement to use tamper-resistant prescription pads when prescribing Medicaid outpatient drugs was included in the War Funding Supplemental (P.L. 110-28).*

S. \_\_\_\_ authorizes \$340 million in funding for the Medicare physician assistance and quality initiative fund. It also would limit the implementation of a prospective documentation and coding adjustments rule for the Medicare Severity Diagnosis Related Group (MS-DRG) system under the hospital inpatient prospective payment system.

**BACKGROUND**

The Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) program provides healthcare coverage through Medicaid for families transitioning from welfare to work. The coverage lasts for four months and is designed to ease the transition for families, whose new income level would otherwise prevent them from receiving traditional Medicaid.

The abstinence education grants are for States to provide educational or motivational programs that promote abstinence. The funding level for these grants is currently authorized at \$50 million per year.

**COST**

According to the Congressional Budget Office's preliminary estimate, the bill would be budget neutral over the next 5 years.

**STAFF CONTACT**

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