

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 HOUSE BILL 2936

By: Nations

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to poor persons; amending 56 O.S.  
8 2001, Section 1010.1, as last amended by Section 1,  
9 Chapter 230, O.S.L. 2007 (56 O.S. Supp. 2007, Section  
10 1010.1), which relates to Medicaid; expanding  
11 coverage to all children under the age of eighteen;  
12 and providing an effective date.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 2001, Section 1010.1, as  
15 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 230, O.S.L. 2007 (56 O.S. Supp.  
16 2007, Section 1010.1), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 1010.1 A. Sections 1010.1 through 1010.7 of this title  
18 shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Medicaid Program  
19 Reform Act of 2003".

20 B. Recognizing that many Oklahomans do not have health care  
21 benefits or health care coverage, that many small businesses cannot  
22 afford to provide health care benefits to their employees, and that,  
23 under federal law, barriers exist to providing Medicaid benefits to  
24 the uninsured, the Oklahoma Legislature hereby establishes  
provisions to lower the number of uninsured, assist businesses in

1 their ability to afford health care benefits and coverage for their  
2 employees, and eliminate barriers to providing health coverage to  
3 eligible enrollees under federal law.

4 C. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority shall provide coverage  
5 under the state Medicaid program to children under the age of  
6 eighteen (18) years ~~whose family incomes do not exceed one hundred~~  
7 ~~eighty five percent (185%) of the federal poverty level.~~

8 D. 1. The Authority is directed to apply for a waiver or  
9 waivers to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) that  
10 will accomplish the purposes outlined in subsection B of this  
11 section. The Authority is further directed to negotiate with CMS to  
12 include in the waiver authority provisions to:

- 13 a. increase access to health care for Oklahomans,
- 14 b. reform the Oklahoma Medicaid Program to promote  
15 personal responsibility for health care services and  
16 appropriate utilization of health care benefits  
17 through the use of public-private cost sharing,
- 18 c. enable small employers, and/or employed, uninsured  
19 adults with or without children to purchase employer-  
20 sponsored, state-approved private, or state-sponsored  
21 health care coverage through a state premium  
22 assistance payment plan. If by January 1, 2012, the  
23 Employer/Employee Partnership for Insurance Coverage  
24 Premium Assistance Program is not consuming more than

1           seventy-five percent (75%) of its dedicated source of  
2           funding, then the program will be expanded to include  
3           parents of children eligible for Medicaid, and

4           d.    develop flexible health care benefit packages based  
5           upon patient need and cost.

6           2.    The Authority may phase in any waiver or waivers it receives  
7           based upon available funding.

8           3.    The Authority is authorized to develop and implement a  
9           premium assistance plan to assist small businesses and/or their  
10           eligible employees to purchase employer-sponsored insurance or "buy-  
11           in" to a state-sponsored benefit plan.

12           4.    The Authority is authorized to seek from the Centers for  
13           Medicare and Medicaid Services any waivers or amendments to existing  
14           waivers necessary to accomplish an expansion of the premium  
15           assistance program to include employers with two hundred fifty  
16           employees or less up to any level supported by existing funding  
17           resources.

18           5.    The Authority is authorized to seek from the Centers for  
19           Medicare and Medicaid Services any waivers or amendments to existing  
20           waivers necessary to accomplish an extension of the premium  
21           assistance program to include qualified employees whose family  
22           income does not exceed two hundred fifty percent (250%) of the  
23           federal poverty level, subject to the limit of federal financial  
24           participation.

1 E. 1. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a  
2 revolving fund to be designated the "Health Employee and Economy  
3 Improvement Act (HEEIA) Revolving Fund".

4 2. The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal  
5 year limitations, and shall consist of:

- 6 a. all monies received by the Authority pursuant to this  
7 section and otherwise specified or authorized by law,
- 8 b. monies received by the Authority due to federal  
9 financial participation pursuant to Title XIX of the  
10 Social Security Act, and
- 11 c. interest attributable to investment of money in the  
12 fund.

13 3. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby  
14 appropriated and shall be budgeted and expended by the Authority to  
15 implement a premium assistance plan.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2008.

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18 51-2-8748 SAB 01/14/08  
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