Aucd Outlines Benefits of New Health Reform for People With Disabilities

Center for Persons With Disabilities

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cpd_blog

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cpd_blog/162
AUCD OUTLINES BENEFITS OF NEW HEALTH REFORM FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

April 1, 2010 by cpehrson

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), a network of interdisciplinary centers advancing policy and practice for individuals with developmental and other disabilities, has summarized the benefits to people with disabilities found in the final health reform package just passed by Congress.

The reform package contains a number of provisions important to people with disabilities, including:

- Major insurance market reforms such as the elimination of discrimination based on health status, a prohibition on pre-existing condition exclusions, guaranteed issue and renewal requirements and the elimination of annual and lifetime caps;
- Creation of a high-risk pool to provide immediate assistance to those currently uninsured with pre-existing conditions;
- The Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act, a new voluntary, national long-term services insurance program to help adults with severe functional impairments to remain independent, employed and part of their communities;
- The Community First Choice Option to provide Medicaid coverage of community-based attendant services and supports to people otherwise eligible for Medicaid institutional services;
- Significant investments in Medicaid to dramatically expand eligibility and provide increased matching rates to help states provide this new coverage;
- An extension of the exceptions process to the Medicare therapy caps on physical, occupational and speech language therapies.

Links to summaries and the text of the bill are on AUCD’s health policy website, including detailed summaries of provisions that impact AUCD network programs and implementation guidelines developed by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

A summary of the wellness, prevention and public health workforce provisions in the Senate bill can also be found on the website.