

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To extend and enhance the COBRA subsidy program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To extend and enhance the COBRA subsidy program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “COBRA Subsidy Ex-
5 tension and Enhancement Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF COBRA SUBSIDY PROGRAM.**

7 (a) AMOUNT OF REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION.—Section
8 3001(a)(1)(A) of division B of the American Recovery and
9 Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) is amended
10 by striking “35 percent” and inserting “25 percent”.

1 (b) COVERAGE UNDER RETIREE PLANS.—Section
2 3001(a)(2)(A)(i) of division B of the American Recovery
3 and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) is
4 amended by inserting “coverage under retiree group
5 health plan,” after “Code of 1986),”.

6 (c) EXTENSION OF COVERAGE.—Section
7 3001(a)(2)(A)(ii) of division B of the American Recovery
8 and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subclause (I), by striking “9 months”
11 and inserting “15 months”;

12 (2) in subclause (II), by strike “or” at the end;

13 (3) in subclause (III), by striking the period
14 and inserting “; or”; and

15 (4) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(IV) December 31, 2010.”.

17 (d) ASSISTANCE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—Section
18 3001(a)(3) of division B of the American Recovery and
19 Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) is amend-
20 ed—

21 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Decem-
22 ber” and all that follows through “is eligible” and
23 inserting “June 30, 2010, such qualified beneficiary
24 is or will be eligible, in the next 31 days,”; and

1 (2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or re-
2 duction in hours (for purposes of a qualifying event
3 based on a reduction in hours shall only apply to in-
4 dividuals whose reduction in hours was involuntary
5 and occurred on or after the date of enactment of
6 the COBRA Subsidy Extension and Enhancement
7 Act of 2009, except that this parenthetical shall not
8 apply to an employee whose involuntary reduction in
9 hours occurred prior to such date of enactment and
10 is covered by COBRA continuation coverage on such
11 date of enactment) of the covered employee” after
12 “employment”.

13 (e) EFFECTIVE DATES AND TRANSITION.—

14 (1) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
16 subparagraph (B), the amendments made by
17 this section shall be effective as if included in
18 the enactment of the American Recovery and
19 Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5).

20 (B) SPECIAL EFFECTIVE DATE.—The
21 amendment made by—

22 (i) subsection (a) shall take effect on
23 the date of enactment of this Act and shall
24 apply beginning with the first premium
25 payment made by an assistance eligible in-

1 (ii) expired by virtue of reaching the
2 maximum required period of continuation
3 coverage before the date of the enactment
4 of this Act; and

5 (iii) would, but for the application of
6 such maximum required period of such
7 continuation coverage, have continued after
8 such date.