



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

AFFILIATED WITH THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL/CIO

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FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM H.R. 1307/S.1982

IMPROVING DENTAL COVERAGE FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

BACKGROUND

For the fifth straight year, premiums for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) will increase sharply in 2002. According to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), on average those premiums will rise by 13.9%. FEHBP premiums will have risen by 46% since 1997.

As the nation's largest employer-sponsored health insurance program, the FEHBP provides over \$24 billion annually in health care benefits. However, Dental coverage is not part of the basic health insurance package offered to federal employees. Employees can get supplemental dental coverage from some insurance plans, but they typically require additional premiums.

According to the 1995 Employee Benefits Survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 57 percent of private employees had dental coverage.

CURRENT STATUS

Currently the Federal government pays, on average, 72 percent of a Federal employee's contribution to his or her health insurance premium. Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) have introduced legislation H.R. 1307 and S. 1982, respectfully that would increase the government's contribution from 72 percent to 80 percent.

NAGE POSITION

Congress should pass H.R. 1307/S. 1982 to help curb rising costs for Federal workers as well as retain and recruit. Many private sector-companies are offering to pay up to 100 percent of their employees' health insurance.

Please **cosponsor** H.R. 1307 by contacting Scott Nance in Representative Hoyer's office at x-54131.

Please **cosponsor** S. 1982 by contacting Sandy Newman in Senator Mikulski's office at x-44654.

Please **write** to House Civil Service Subcommittee Chairman, Representative Dave Weldon and urge him to hold a hearing on the lack of adequate dental coverage for Federal employees.