What’s in the Health Care Law for Small Business

Small Business Tax Credits
More than four million small businesses will qualify for tax credits of up to 35% of what they pay for health insurance premiums. This will help lower their costs so more small businesses can afford to provide health insurance to their employees.

State Health Insurance Marketplaces
These online marketplaces will allow small businesses and the self-employed to band together when buying insurance so they have the kind of clout big businesses currently have. These marketplaces will give them more choice and offer small firms and the self-employed access to stable, affordable coverage year after year.

Cost Containment
The law cracks down on waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid programs. It also establishes an electronic medical records system to create efficiency and reduce the paperwork burden that adds tremendous costs for patients, providers, and businesses today.

Wellness Programs
The law invests in prevention and wellness by requiring that prevention and screening services be offered at no charge to patients. It also offers federal grants of up to $200 million for small business wellness programs.

Preexisting Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP)
The self-employed often are unable to get coverage due to a preexisting health condition. The new health law establishes a federally-funded preexisting condition plan to help these people purchase affordable health insurance.

Web-Friendly
Small business owners and employees will be able to access the state health insurance marketplaces via the web to learn about and purchase insurance plans. The website will also let people know whether they are eligible for any state or local public health programs, including Medicaid and CHIP.

Medical Loss Ratio (MLR)
The law requires that insurers spend at least 80% of small business health premiums on medical costs instead of big CEO salaries, marketing campaigns and other costs not directly related to health care. This will help lower overall costs for small firms.

Keep Existing Coverage
Under the new law families will be able to keep their children covered under their family health plan until age 26. Additionally, small employers can keep their current plan if they like it, as long as the plan existed before March 23, 2010 and makes no substantial changes in coverage.

Learn more about the health care law at:


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