

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1878

To assist low-income individuals in obtaining recommended dental care.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 16, 2011

Mr. MENENDEZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To assist low-income individuals in obtaining recommended dental care.

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 “Coordination of Pro
5 Bono Medically Recommended Dental Care Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANTS OR CONTRACTS TO FACILITATE LOW-IN-**
7 **COME ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE.**

8 Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act
9 is amended by inserting after section 317M (42 U.S.C.
10 247b–14a) the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 317M-1. GRANTS OR CONTRACTS TO FACILITATE**
2 **LOW-INCOME ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE.**

3 “(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award competi-
4 tive grants to, or enter into contracts with, eligible entities
5 to fund the employment costs of professionals who will use
6 grant or contract funds to—

7 “(1) coordinate the provision of medically rec-
8 ommended dental care to eligible low-income individ-
9 uals by volunteer dentists in a manner consistent
10 with State licensing laws; and

11 “(2) verify the medical, dental, and financial
12 needs of eligible low-income individuals who may be
13 eligible for free dental services.

14 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

15 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—To be eligible to re-
16 ceive a grant or contract under subsection (a), an
17 entity shall—

18 “(A) be an entity that is exempt from tax
19 under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue
20 Code of 1986;

21 “(B) provide for the participation of eligi-
22 ble individuals in a free dental services program
23 on a national basis; and

24 “(C) submit to the Secretary an applica-
25 tion at such time, in such manner, and con-

1 taining such information as the Secretary may
2 require.

3 “(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—To be eligible to
4 participate in a program described in paragraph
5 (1)(B), an individual shall be—

6 “(A) an adult individual entitled to bene-
7 fits under part A of title XVIII of the Social
8 Security Act;

9 “(B) an individual enrolled in part B of
10 title XVIII of such Act;

11 “(C) an individual enrolled in a State plan
12 or waiver under title XIX of such Act; or

13 “(D) an individual enrolled in a State child
14 health plan under title XXI of such Act or
15 under an approved waiver of such plan.

16 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity shall use amounts
17 received under a grant or contract under this section to
18 establish, expand, or operate a program to coordinate the
19 provision of free dental care through volunteer dentists to
20 eligible individuals.

21 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
23 \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016.”.

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