

Health Care/Reform

AB 111 – HIRSP Benefit Limit

Rep. Bernard Schaber

Summary of Bill:

Assembly Bill 111 changes the lifetime benefit limit under the Health Insurance Risk-Sharing Plan (H.I.R.S.P.).

Presently, HIRSP policyholders have \$1 million lifetime benefit limit. AB 111 maintains that limit but also allows the HIRSP Authority to increase the limit, if necessary, in order to better serve the high-risk population.

Fiscal Effect:

There was no fiscal estimate required for Assembly Bill 111.

Supporters Message:

For policyholders that reach the lifetime limit benefit maximum there is a real potential of ending up without any insurance coverage at all. Some policyholders may qualify for Medicare; however, that requires a determination of that individual's medical condition as a disability.

Allowing the HIRSP Authority the flexibility to adjust benefit limits ensures the HIRSP policies will keep pace with fluctuations in the individual market.

Finally, roughly one third of state high-risk pools have lifetime benefits exceeding \$1 million.

Opponents Message:

By increasing the lifetime benefit limit, higher HIRSP premiums may result.

Key Supporters:

Penny Bernard Schaber, Representative, 57th Assembly District (author); Amie Goldman, Madison, CEO HIRSP Authority; Robert Kraig, Milwaukee, Citizen Action of Wisconsin; Jeremy Levin, Madison, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative; Sean Dilweg, Madison, Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance.

Key Opponents:

No one testified or registered against AB111, and no one registered against it with the Ethics Board.

Committee Vote:

On May 8th, 2009, 2009, the Assembly Committee on Health and Health Care Reform recommended passage of AB111, on a unanimous vote of 13 - 0.

Staff Author of Bill Summary

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