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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to take certain actions with respect to the health insurance program carried out under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WALTZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to take certain actions with respect to the health insurance program carried out under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes.

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 “FEHB Protection
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEHB IMPROVEMENTS.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
4 the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

5 (2) EMPLOYING OFFICE.—The term “employing
6 office” has the meaning given the term in section
7 890.101(a) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations,
8 or any successor regulation.

9 (3) HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN; MEMBER OF
10 FAMILY.—The terms “health benefits plan” and
11 “member of family” have the meanings given those
12 terms in section 8901 of title 5, United States Code.

13 (4) OPEN SEASON.—The term “open season”
14 means an open season described in section
15 890.301(f) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations,
16 or any successor regulation.

17 (5) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
18 the health insurance programs carried out under
19 chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, including
20 the program carried out under section 8903c of that
21 title.

22 (6) QUALIFYING LIFE EVENT.—The term
23 “qualifying life event” has the meaning given the
24 term in section 892.101 of title 5, Code of Federal
25 Regulations, or any successor regulation.

1 (b) VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than
2 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
3 Director shall issue regulations and implement a process
4 to require each employing office to verify—

5 (1) the veracity of any qualifying life event
6 through which an enrollee in the Program seeks to
7 add a member of family with respect to the enrollee
8 to a health benefits plan under the Program; and

9 (2) that, when an enrollee in the Program seeks
10 to add a member of family with respect to the en-
11 rollee to the health benefits plan of the enrollee
12 under the Program, including during any open sea-
13 son, the individual so added is a qualifying member
14 of family with respect to the enrollee.

15 (c) FRAUD RISK ASSESSMENT.—In any fraud risk
16 assessment conducted with respect to the Program on or
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director
18 shall include an assessment of individuals who are enrolled
19 in, or covered under, a health benefits plan under the Pro-
20 gram even though those individuals are not eligible to be
21 so enrolled or covered.

22 (d) FAMILY MEMBER ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION
23 AUDIT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—During the 3-year period be-
25 ginning 1 year after the date of the enactment of

1 this Act, the Director, in coordination with the head
2 of each employing office, shall conduct a comprehen-
3 sive audit regarding members of family who are cov-
4 ered under an enrollment in a health benefits plan
5 under the Program.

6 (2) CONTENTS.—In conducting an audit re-
7 quired under paragraph (1), the Director, in coordi-
8 nation with the head of each employing office, shall
9 review marriage certificates, birth certificates, and
10 other appropriate documents that are necessary to
11 determine eligibility to enroll in a health benefits
12 plan under the Program.

13 (e) DISENROLLMENT OR REMOVAL.—Not later than
14 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
15 Director shall develop a process by which any individual
16 enrolled in, or covered under, a health benefits plan under
17 the Program who is not eligible to be so enrolled or cov-
18 ered shall be disenrolled or removed from enrollment in
19 a health benefits plan under the Program.