

Look What Arizona Has Done!

by: Eileen Roth

Senate Bill 1442 - AHCCCS; Temporary Medical Coverage Program. This bill was signed into law by Governor Janet Napolitano 6/21/06 and the law went into effect on 10/01/06.

Purpose: An emergency measure that appropriates \$8.7 million from the state General Fund in FY 2006-2007 to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Administration to establish a Temporary Medical Coverage Program for uninsured individuals receiving federal disability insurance benefit payments who meet specified requirements.

Summary: Sen. Barbara Leff's bill is helping some 1,300 Arizona residents on SSDI, allowing them to stay on AHCCCS and hopefully stay alive until Medicare kicks in. Every citizen in this country should have the right not to die for lack of medical coverage because of disability. You would think they'd automatically be eligible for Medicare if the Feds decided they were disabled, but no, Congress, in its wisdom, long ago (1970's) decided that the disabled should wait for two years before they're eligible for Federal health insurance.

Please look into this **Arizona ground breaking legislation**. If you are interested, please help us get out this humanitarian message. Just send me a note and I will be glad to send hard copies of any information on this subject that you may wish.

This is a major healthcare coverage issue and we can change it, but it must be done **on a Federal level! New legislation must be instituted on the Federal level saving our own unfortunate disabled and severely ill people from sure mental anguish as well as despair. For many the dropping of coverage is a death sentence and maintenance treatment is a must!**

Laurie Roberts of the AZ Republic has written several excellent newspaper articles about this healthcare coverage issue during the past several months. If you would like a copy of any or all of these articles you can download the articles by visiting the Arizona Republic website at http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?s_site=azcentral&p_product=ARPB&p_theme=gannett&p_action=keyword or contact me and I will send it to you via regular mail.

Points to Remember: **This is not a free bee!** Premiums must still be paid according to income schedule. Although the premium is not large it is still **contributory!** There are many avenues of adding to the fund with private business, donations and fund raising.

People who have been productive citizens contributing to the system almost all their lives can be saved from being broken financially, perhaps even mentally from stress and expense.

These people will be able to retain their self respect instead of being kicked to the curb feeling abandoned. This law is based on positive goals not hateful discrimination.

To find out more about the bill, vote tallies and general information, please copy and paste the following into your browser:

http://www.azleg.state.az.us/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1442&image.x=17&image.y=8

Thank you for passing this along and helping us get this important message out.

Sincerely, Eileen Roth

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