



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

September 7, 2010

**H.R. 1745
Family Health Care Accessibility Act of 2010**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on July 28, 2010

SUMMARY

H.R. 1745 would amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the pool of individuals provided with liability protection under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA).

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$1 million for 2011 and \$18 over the 2011-2015 period, assuming the appropriation of necessary amounts. CBO estimates that funding the act would require appropriations totalling \$6 million in 2011 and \$31 million over the 2011-2015 period. Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 1745 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1745 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 550 (health).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2011- 2015
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	6	6	6	6	6	31
Estimated Outlays	1	2	4	5	6	18

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

Under current law, the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) provides liability protection to employees and contractors of certain health centers because those individuals are considered employees of the federal government. In doing so, the government defends all medical liability claims against health center employees and pays any claims arising from the liability. H.R. 1745 would grant that protection to health care professionals who volunteer at those health centers.

The liability protection for volunteers under H.R. 1745 would be conditional upon the appropriation of funds, in addition to existing FTCA resources, for the purposes of covering volunteers.¹ For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 1745 will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2011 and funds will be appropriated beginning in fiscal year 2011 and each year thereafter. Based on historical program expenditures for existing liability protections, the projected demand for health care professionals, and the potential role of volunteer staff at health centers, CBO estimates that covering volunteers under the FTCA would require the appropriation of \$6 million for 2011 and \$31 million over the 2011-2015 period. CBO estimates that implementing the FTCA expansion would cost \$18 million over the 2011-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1745 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

¹ The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010, provided \$44 million for FTCA coverage of health center employees.

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