



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

October 4, 2000

S. 704

Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act of 2000

As cleared by the Congress on September 28, 2000

Enacting S. 704 would permit the Bureau of Prisons to assess and collect a copayment fee of at least \$1 for each health care visit initiated by a prisoner (excluding those for preventative health care services, emergency services, prenatal care, treatment of chronic infectious diseases, mental health, or substance abuse services). Fees collected from prisoners who are subject to an order of restitution would be paid to victims. Of the remaining fees, 75 percent would be deposited into the Crime Victims Fund and 25 percent would be available to the Attorney General for spending on administrative expenses incurred in carrying out the copayment program. Collecting and spending the copayment fees that would be authorized by S. 704 would have no significant net budgetary impact.

CBO estimates that the proposed health care copayment would generate about \$2 million in offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) over the 2001-2005 period. Those collections would be available for spending without appropriation action. CBO expects that there would be a lag between the collection and the spending of such receipts, but we estimate that the net change in direct spending would be less than \$500,000 a year.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lanette J. Keith. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.