

June 8, 2001

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,  
and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

At your request, the Congressional Budget Office has prepared the attached table showing the ultimate average effect on premiums for employer-sponsored health insurance of S. 889, the Bipartisan Patients' Bill of Rights Act of 2001, as introduced on May 15, 2001. We estimate that enacting the bill would ultimately increase the premiums for employer-sponsored health plans by an average of 2.9 percent.

I hope this information is helpful to you. The CBO staff contact is Tom Bradley.

Sincerely,

Dan L. Crippen

Attachment

cc: Honorable Judd Gregg  
Ranking Member

Honorable Bill Frist

Honorable John B. Breaux

Honorable James M. Jeffords

Identical Letter Sent to Honorable John McCain, Honorable John Edwards,  
Honorable John D. Dingell, and Honorable Greg Ganske

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**ESTIMATED ULTIMATE EFFECT OF S. 889, THE BIPARTISAN PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2001, ON PREMIUMS FOR EMPLOYER-SPONSORED HEALTH INSURANCE (In percent)**

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<b>Provision</b>	<b>Increase in Premiums</b>
Subtitle A—Right to Advice and Care	
Access to emergency medical care	0.4
Offering of choice of coverage options	0.1
Patient access to obstetric and gynecological care	0.1
Access to pediatric care	a
Timely access to specialists	0.1
Continuity of care	0.3
Protection of patient-provider communications	a
Patient's right to prescription drugs	a
Coverage for individuals participating in approved clinical trials	0.5
Minimum hospital stay for mastectomy and secondary consults for cancer	0.2
Prohibition of discrimination against providers based on licensure	a
Subtitle B—Right to Information about Plans and Providers	0.1
Subtitle C—Right to Hold Health Plans Accountable	0.8
Subtitle D—Remedies	0.4
Total	2.9

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SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office.

a. Less than 0.05 percent.

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