



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

October 4, 2004

H.R. 918
Patient Navigator Outreach and Chronic Disease Prevention Act of 2004

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
on September 30, 2004*

H.R. 918 would amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants for the development and operation of programs that provide “patient navigator” services. Patient navigators assist patients in overcoming obstacles to the prompt diagnosis and treatment of health problems, in part by identifying sources of care and insurance, coordinating referrals, and facilitating enrollment in clinical trials. The bill also would require the Secretary to conduct a study and report to the Congress within six months of completion of the grant program.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$2 million in 2006, \$5 million in 2007, \$8 million in 2008, \$6.5 million in 2009, and \$3.5 million in 2010. Based on spending patterns for similar programs, and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 918 would cost \$18 million from 2005 through 2009. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts.

H.R. 918 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act; state, local, and tribal governments would be eligible to apply for grants authorized by the bill.

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