

Testimony
HCR 3014 - Department of Human Services
House Constitutional Revision Committee
Representative Kim Koppelman, Chairman
February 9, 2011

Chairman Koppelman, members of the House Constitutional Revision Committee, I am Barbara Siegel, Policy Analyst with the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Department of Human Services. I am here to ask the Committee to consider a proposed amendment to HCR 3014.

The attached amendment would specifically allow an exception for the long-standing practice of ordering parents to provide health insurance coverage for children, when certain criteria are met, and when children are not part of an intact family. For example, the court may order a parent in a divorce to provide health insurance coverage for the child because that parent has the coverage available through an employer. In addition, the amendment clarifies that enforcement of those orders would also continue to be allowed.

To disrupt this practice would not only inevitably lead to more children being uninsured, but would also place the Child Support Enforcement program at risk for noncompliance with federal medical support laws and regulations thus leading to the possibility of significant federal penalties.

Although language on page 1, line 15, provides that a law or rule may not compel any individual to purchase health insurance coverage, and it may be argued that a court may still do so, provisions affecting the courts' orders in such matters are, and may be in the future, addressed in state law.

Thank you for considering this proposed amendment. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.