



Guaranteed Insurance

Overview

“Guaranteed issue” is a requirement that insurers accept specified applicants for coverage, generally without regard to their health status or previous claims experience. Coverage for pre-existing conditions, continuity of coverage for individuals between jobs and maintaining affordability for those with insurance coverage are the main concerns regarding access to care.

HCSC Position

Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC) supports proposals by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) and America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) for a system of mandated health insurance coverage for individuals, coupled with guaranteed issue of coverage.

HCSC, the nation's largest non-investor-owned health insurance company, covers more than 12.4 million members through its Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans in Illinois, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Guaranteed issue will provide peace of mind for all Americans that they will be able to obtain health insurance in the individual market regardless of pre-existing conditions. However, it is important to note that guaranteed issue will work only in the context of an effective, enforceable mandate that ensures the integrity of the insurance market.

In addition, the underlying issue of all insurance reform is the cost of medical care. To make a system of guaranteed issue and mandates work, all parties must cooperate in controlling costs. And, government must be willing to subsidize, in whole or in part, coverage for those who cannot afford it on their own.

HCSC looks forward to working with public officials to implement this important reform.

About Health Care Service Corporation

Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, is the largest customer-owned health insurer in the United States and the fourth largest health insurer in the country overall, with 12.4 million members in its Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans in Illinois, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. The company is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. HCSC also has a rating of AA- (Very Strong) from Standard and Poor's, Aa3 (Excellent) from Moody's and A+ (Superior) from A.M. Best Company. For more information, visit www.HCSC.com.