Docket: IRS-2008-0103
Request for Information Regarding Sections 101 Through 104 of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008

Comment On: IRS-2008-0103-0017
Interim Final Rules Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Genetic Information in Health Insurance Coverage and Group Health Plans

Document: IRS-2008-0103-0050
Comment on FR Doc # E9-22504

Submitter Information

General Comment

Interim Final Rules Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Genetic Information in Health Insurance Coverage and Group Health Plans - Comments

Attachments

IRS-2008-0103-0050.1: Comment on FR Doc # E9-22504
Timothy Geithner
Secretary
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
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Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
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Hilda Solis
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

Stuart J. Ishimaru
Acting Chairman
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
131 M Street, NE
Washington, DC 20507

cc: Robert Kocher, MD, Special Assistant to the President, National Economic Council, The White House
    Ezekiel Emanuel, MD, Special Advisor for Health Policy, Office of the Director, Office of Management and Budget

To Whom It May Concern:

The Oct. 7, 2009, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) interim final rule is supposed to protect the privacy of patients and employees. While I support the overall goal of the GINA, to exclude personal medical history from insurance pricing and job applications, I fear that the GINA regulations are actually putting us at risk more than they are protecting us.

GINA regulations want to exclude family medical history from health risk assessments. Family medical history is a significant factor in determining a patient's potential health risks. If this information is excluded from Health Risk Assessments, individuals who could benefit from wellness and disease management services fall through the cracks, the prevalence of chronic conditions rises and employers experience increased health care costs and productivity losses.

Please, urge the departments of Health and Human Services, Labor and the Treasury must delay implementation and enforcement of the interim final rule and the rule’s potential impact on workplace health promotion programs. If the GINA interim rules are implemented, it will hinder the progress of the medical community to educate people about certain illnesses. It will also limit the public’s access to medical information. Please do not let that happen.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David Hymel