
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: SIMMONS
FROM: BOYD
SUBJECT: CHIP FEDERAL ISSUES
DATE: 3/27/2000
CC: GOVERNOR
BUTTROSS

HB 1469 (Holland) will eliminate the six month waiting period for CHIP enrollment. While this sounds like a great idea, Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) may disallow this amendment. Buttross says that HCFA wanted a nine-month waiting period to prevent an influx of children with health insurance from enrolling in CHIP.

I have spoken with Mark Haire (MS Dept. of Insurance) about setting up a data match for applicants with private insurance carriers. [A data match would permit the Department of Human Services to query each insurance carrier for the child and parent's identification to determine if they have health insurance coverage.] He says that without legislation requiring the provider's involvement we will likely be unsuccessful in getting the carriers to assist with the data matching approach.

As I see it, we need (1) a viable method to check for insurance coverage for applicants (which may require state legislation) and (2) HCFA's approval for elimination of the waiting period. Will you check with HCFA or other states to determine if these two items can be done?

The Division of Medicaid has informed me that Mississippi has approximately \$31 million in CHIP federal funds to use before October 1, 2000. These funds are designated for premium payments for CHIP participants (commercial insurance not Medicaid). *Will you check with HCFA about the possibility of a waiver for these funds to be held over or used for outreach?*