



Office of the Governor of Guam

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Felix P. Camacho
Governor

Michael W. Cruz, M.D.
Lieutenant Governor

Handwritten notes: 29-08-2004, Speaker, RECEIVED, 8/17/08, 5:20

19 MAR 2008

Honorable Judith T. Won Pat
Speaker
I Mina' Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guahan
155 Hesler Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

2008 MAR 20 AM 10:17

Dear Speaker Won Pat:

Submitted herewith is Bill No. 136, "AN ACT RELATIVE TO INCORPORATING THE PROVISION OF WELLNESS AND PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE INTO THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM'S GROUP HEALTH AND MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE, THUS PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING A MORE HEALTHY, FIT, AND IMPROVED LIFESTYLE FOR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES; THROUGH ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION "(h)" TO §4301 OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, GROUP INSURANCE," which I have vetoed.

As part of the Administration's Healthy Guam initiative, the Department of Administration successfully negotiated the inclusion of a wellness benefit in the current healthcare plan at no increase to the premiums paid by the employee and government. The Administration intends to continue negotiating the inclusion of this benefit in future plans. But anytime we require by law a coverage as a condition of government negotiations, which Bill No. 136 does, the rates will go up. The budget constraints of the government make it very difficult for the government to afford an increase. More importantly, we would not want to unnecessarily impose an additional cost to government employees especially with the rising cost of healthcare.

I recognize the long-term benefit of incorporating a wellness and preventive healthcare program. However, the risk of increasing the cost to the government and its employees by mandating this coverage when we have been able to do this at no extra cost has compelled me to veto this measure.

Sinseru yan Magâhet,

Handwritten signature of Felix P. Camacho

FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga'lâhen Guâhan
Governor of Guam

I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2008 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUÅHAN

This is to certify that Bill No. 136 (EC), "AN ACT RELATIVE TO INCORPORATING THE PROVISION OF WELLNESS AND PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE INTO THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM'S GROUP HEALTH AND MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE, THUS PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING A MORE HEALTHY, FIT, AND IMPROVED LIFESTYLE FOR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES; THROUGH ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION "(h)" TO §4301 OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, GROUP INSURANCE," was on the 6th day of March, 2008, duly and regularly passed.



J. T. Won Pat
Speaker

Attested:



Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Senator and Secretary of the Legislature

This Act was received by *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan* this _____ day of _____, 2008, at _____ o'clock _____.M.

Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'laha'i's Office

APPROVED:

VETO

FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga'lahaen Guåhan

Date: _____

Public Law No. _____

I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2007 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 136 (EC)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced By:

A. B. Palacios, Sr.
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
B. J.F. Cruz
Judith Paulette Guthertz
v. c. pangelinan
R. J. Respicio
David L.G. Shimizu
J. T. Won Pat
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Edward J.B. Calvo
James V. Espaldon
Mark Forbes
Frank T. Ishizaki
J. A. Lujan
Ray Tenorio

AN ACT RELATIVE TO INCORPORATING THE PROVISION OF WELLNESS AND PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE INTO THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM'S GROUP HEALTH AND MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE, THUS PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING A MORE HEALTHY, FIT, AND IMPROVED LIFESTYLE FOR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES; THROUGH *ADDING* A NEW SUBSECTION "(h)" TO §4301 OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, GROUP INSURANCE.

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*

3 finds that the health and medical insurance program which is presently being

1 administered through the Department of Administration and numerous government
2 of Guam agencies for government employees advocates for the provision of
3 hospitalization, medical care, life, accident, and mammogram benefits, but does
4 not provide for the inclusion of wellness and preventive healthcare coverage. Over
5 the past several years, numerous studies have been conducted on the health
6 benefits and costs associated with wellness and preventive healthcare programs
7 and activities, with findings showing that individuals and families who actively
8 participate in such activities realize a tremendous improvement in their physical
9 health which further results in reduced healthcare and medical care costs in the
10 long run.

11 Furthermore, several doctors and medical professionals on island have
12 advocated for the use of preventative healthcare programs for many of their
13 patients, which include Guam's youth, children, adults, and senior citizens as a
14 way of further promoting a long and healthy lifestyle. Common, potentially
15 preventable illnesses on Guam, i.e. diabetes, heart disease, and others, can be
16 minimized *if* our people are more knowledgeable and practice living a healthier
17 lifestyle through the proper consumption of various types of food, and through the
18 regular application of physical fitness activities. It is through encouraging a much
19 greater active participation and use of wellness and preventative healthcare
20 programs that the entire community can look forward to living healthier and
21 possibly longer lives.

22 In addition, financial reviews of the overall costs of healthcare have proven
23 that the ensuing reduction in individual and family costs for these services from
24 wellness and preventive health programs, have also contributed to a corresponding
25 decrease in the actual healthcare expenses for health insurance providers, thus
26 demonstrating a win-win situation for both the health insurance companies and the
27 individuals/families receiving the health insurance coverage. Such improvements

1 in physical health, in particular the healthcare cost-reduction benefits, should
2 certainly be encouraged and at times required to promote a healthier and more
3 vibrant community. Thus, it would be proper and cost-effective for the
4 government of Guam to maintain and advocate for health insurance company
5 partners that provide health insurance coverage to government employees to
6 include as part of their health and medical insurance benefits package an allowance
7 for including wellness and preventive healthcare coverage.

8 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to support and allow for
9 the inclusion of wellness and preventive healthcare coverage as part of the health
10 and medical insurance program which is administered by the government of Guam.
11 Although concerns may be raised about the potential for a slight increase in
12 healthcare premium costs, the improvement in health and physical vitality, and the
13 overall benefits of wellness and preventive healthcare activities can result directly
14 toward the reduction in long-term healthcare costs for individuals and families.
15 Promoting a much healthier and more physically fit community will certainly
16 contribute greatly toward a more active and vibrant community of public
17 employees and their families.

18 **Section 2.** Government of Guam employees *shall* be entitled to eight (8)
19 hours of administrative leave for the purposes of receiving CPR certification. The
20 cost for the CPR Certification Program *shall* be borne by the employee.

21 **Section 3.** A new Subsection (h) is hereby *added* to §4301, Group
22 Insurance, of Article 3, Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, relative to the
23 inclusion of wellness and preventive healthcare coverage in group health and
24 medical insurance benefits, to read as follows:

25 “(h) Allowance for the inclusion of wellness and preventive
26 healthcare programs as a benefit in group health and medical insurance
27 policies. Health insurance policies issued to residents of Guam *shall* provide

1 for the inclusion and coverage of wellness and/or preventive healthcare
2 programs and activities. The health insurance provider *shall*, at its discretion
3 *or* in consultation with the affected parties, identify the programs *or*
4 activities which will be provided as a benefit in compliance with the
5 provisions of this subsection. The wellness and preventive healthcare
6 services provided in this subsection (h) may be subject to any coinsurance
7 provisions which may be in force in such policies, contracts, plans or
8 agreements. The Director of the Department of Public Health and Social
9 Services or a designee *shall* be responsible for ensuring the proper and
10 timely compliance of the provision set forth herein. An insurer may provide
11 the services required by this subsection (h) through contracts with providers;
12 provided that the contract is determined to be a cost-effective means of
13 delivering the services without sacrifice of quality.”

14 **Section 4. Effective Date.** The provisions contained herein *shall* be
15 effective and applicable *no later than* the subsequent health and medical insurance
16 policy term negotiated by the Department of Administration Negotiating Team
17 following the enactment of this Act.

18 **Section 5. Severability.** *If* any of the provisions of this Act or the
19 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity
20 shall *not* affect any other provision or application of this Act which can be given
21 effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of
22 this Act are severable.