

RESTORING HUSKY A TO WORKING PARENTS

We need to FULLY restore HUSKY A parents to 201% of the federal poverty level, where it was before the cut in 2015. This eligibility level will match their children's eligibility. We should do this, even if it means raising revenues from progressive sources.

In 2015, the legislature reduced eligibility for parent enrollees in the HUSKY A category of Medicaid, from 155% to 201% of the poverty level. This resulted in a loss of coverage to **almost 18,000 HUSKY A parents, the vast majority of whom are working parents.**

- **Health coverage is largely unaffordable for this low-income group.**
 - When the state reduced funding for these HUSKY A parents in 2015, only about **12%** of the parents ended up keeping insurance through the state's health exchange. Many never purchased insurance or dropped it because they could not afford it.
 - With no public option to be passed this year, there is no other place for these low-income individuals to obtain affordable health coverage and so most will continue to go without.

- **When parents lose their Medicaid coverage, studies show that many of their children who are still eligible for Medicaid coverage nevertheless lose coverage due to confusion about the new rules.**

- Restoring HUSKY A eligibility to the same income level as their children will significantly reduce confusion and thus keep more children who are already **eligible** for Medicaid on the rolls.

- **Access to Medicaid lifts families out of poverty. Health insurance allows parents to maintain employment by keeping them healthy enough to work.**

When the legislature made this cut in 2015, it did so not because this was a good policy choice, but solely because of budgetary pressures. Given the very few who were able to afford replacement insurance on the exchange, it is time to fully restore these benefits. And, if needed to accomplish this, we should modestly increase taxes on high earners to pay for this.

PLEASE FULLY RESTORE HUSKY A ELIGIBILITY NOW!

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