

Coburn Amendment #410— To ensure that HSA-eligible high-deductible health plans are considered to be qualified health plans for purposes of the Affordable Care Act and including employer offers of coverage or plans purchased in the individual and small group markets, both inside and outside of the a health insurance exchange.

Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) were created ten years ago so that individuals covered by high-deductible health plans could save more of their own money and use it to pay for medical expenses. Today, more than 13 million Americans are covered by HSA-eligible insurance plans.

Unfortunately, the “Affordable” Care Act threatens to reduce consumers’ ability to keep their HSAs and high-deductible plans. The health law includes a range of policies –the Medical Loss Ratio, Essential Health Benefits, and more ---which not only increase the price of insurance, they make it very difficult for HSAs to continue to be offered to consumers.

This amendment does not threaten the coverage expansion of the health reform law, but would allow HAS-eligible high deductible health plans to:

- Fulfill the law’s individual mandate
- Fulfill the law’s requirement related to employers’ offering coverage
- Be sold in all markets, in and outside of the Exchanges.

HSAs and High Deductible Plans Are the Right Choice For Millions of Americans

HSAs and High Deductible Plans are the preferred health coverage for millions of Americans. In fact, today more Americans are covered by HSA-eligible insurance plans than live in Wyoming, Vermont, North Dakota, Alaska, South Dakota, Delaware, Montana, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine, Hawaii, and Idaho combined.

HSAs offer consumers more control over their money and health choices. And HSAs cost less than more "traditional" copay plans while still providing quality health insurance choices.

Some may misunderstand HSAs. For example, some suggest HSAs don’t work for older Americans. But actually, about half of enrollees in an HSA-eligible plan are aged 40 and above.

Others suggest that HSAs don't work for Americans with chronic diseases. But a 2008 study by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that the percentages of enrollees in HSA-qualified plans reported having at least one chronic condition was statistically identical to those in traditional plans.

Years ago, the President said that Americans who like the health plan they had would be able to keep it. This amendment ensures that Americans with HSA-eligible health plans can keep them under the Affordable Care Act.