

### **Ensign Amendment # C3 to America's Healthy Future Act of 2009**

**Short Title:** To protect taxpayers by ensuring that immigrants do not become public charges by requiring an immigrant sponsor's accountable under affidavits of support.

**Description of Amendment:** Sponsors of legal immigrants shall ensure that the individual(s) who they sponsor for entry into the U.S. shall obtain health insurance coverage. If a sponsored immigrant does not obtain health insurance coverage on his/her own, then the immigrant's sponsor shall be liable for all costs incurred by the American taxpayers should a sponsored alien receive any taxpayer-funded health care. The sponsor shall remain liable for such costs incurred by the taxpayers for the period specified in Section 421 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (Public Law No. 104-193).

In order to ensure compliance, and consistent with the Personal Responsibility Requirement in the Chairman's Mark, a sponsor shall be required to report on his/her federal income tax return the months for which he/she maintains the required minimum health coverage for him/herself, dependants and all sponsored immigrants. If neither the sponsor nor the sponsored immigrant do not maintain the requisite health insurance for the sponsored immigrant, then the sponsor shall be required to pay the greater of: (1) the excise tax specified in the chairman's mark for an individual who does not maintain insurance (based on the income of the immigrant); or (2) any amount provided to such immigrant in the form of a tax credit pursuant to this bill. Such amounts shall be paid to the government in the manner provided in the chairman's mark for the excise tax under the mark. Furthermore, in the event a sponsor fails to ensure that one of his/her sponsored immigrants maintains adequate health insurance during the period specified in Section 421 of PRWORA, such sponsor will not be allowed to sponsor any immigrants in the future.