



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

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TO: NYSCOPBA Chief Sector Stewards

FROM: Sharon Smith, Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: June 1, 2010

RE: Federal Health Care Reform Related to Extension of Dependent Children to Age 26

I have received numerous telephone calls concerning the Federal Health Care Reform Bill and the extension of coverage for members' dependents to age 26. Below is the information I have received so far.

Though the legislation allows "grandfathering" the benefit into those plans already established on or before March 23, 2010, until 2014, Civil Service has decided to extend the benefit effective January 1, 2011 (the beginning of their plan year). Members will not experience an additional premium cost to add the dependent if they already have family coverage. The guidelines extend the coverage to natural children, stepchildren, adopted children and foster children. The dependent will not need to reside with the member, can be married and does not need to be a student or financially dependent on the member. The member will be required to attest that the dependent is not eligible for any other health insurance coverage from their employer.

Civil Service is required to notify all members of this extension and offer a 30-day enrollment period, which is planned during the Option Transfer Period at year end.

Information regarding this extension is available on Civil Service's website (www.cs.state.ny.us) under "Current Topic" and "How Will Federal Health Care Reform Impact NYSHIP".

Please share this important information with your membership; and should you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

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cc: NYSCOPBA Executive Board
NYSCOPBA Jt. Committee on Health Benefits