To amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to reduce fraudulent enrollments in qualified health plans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Wyden (for himself, Mr. Brown, Ms. Duckworth, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Schatz, and Mr. Van Hollen) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to reduce fraudulent enrollments in qualified health plans, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Insurance Fraud Accountability Act”.

SEC. 2. REDUCTION OF FRAUDULENT ENROLLMENT IN QUALIFIED HEALTH PLANS.

(a) Penalties for Agents and Brokers.—Section 1411(h)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18081(h)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iv);

(B) in clause (i)—

(i) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “If—” and all that follows through the “such person” in the matter following subclause (II) and inserting the following: “If any person (other than an agent or broker) fails to provide correct information under subsection (b) and such failure is attributable to negligence or disregard of any rules or regulations of the Secretary, such person”; and

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking “For purposes” and inserting the following:

“(iii) Definitions of negligence, disregard.—For purposes”; and

(C) by inserting after clause (i) the follow
“(ii) Civil penalties for certain violations by agents or brokers.—If any agent or broker fails to provide correct information under subsection (b) or section 1311(e)(8) or other information, as specified by the Secretary, and such failure is attributable to negligence or disregard of any rules or regulations of the Secretary, such agent or broker shall be subject, in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed by law, including subparagraph (C), to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $50,000 with respect to each individual who is the subject of an application for which such incorrect information is provided.”; and

(D) in clause (iv) (as so redesignated), by inserting “or (ii)” after “clause (i)”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by inserting “including subparagraph (C),” after “law,”;

(B) by striking “Any person” and inserting the following:

“(i) In general.—Any person”; and

(i) by adding at the end the following:
“(ii) Civil penalties for knowing violations by agents or brokers.—

“(I) In general.—Any agent or broker who knowingly provides false or fraudulent information under subsection (b) or section 1311(c)(8), or other false or fraudulent information as part of an application for enrollment in a qualified health plan offered through an Exchange, as specified by the Secretary, shall be subject, in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed by law, including subparagraph (C), to a civil penalty of not more than $200,000 with respect to each individual who is the subject of an application for which such false or fraudulent information is provided.

“(II) Procedure.—The provisions of section 1128A of the Social Security Act (other than subsections (a) and (b) of such section) shall apply to a civil monetary penalty under subclause (I) in the same manner as such provisions apply to a pen-
alty or proceeding under section 1128A of the Social Security Act.”;
and
(3) by adding at the end the following:
“(C) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Any agent or broker who knowingly and willfully provides false or fraudulent information under subsection (b) or section 1311(c)(8), or other false or fraudulent information as part of an application for enrollment in a qualified health plan offered through an Exchange, as specified by the Secretary, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.”.

(b) CONSUMER PROTECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1311(c) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18031(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:
“(8) AGENT- OR BROKER-ASSISTED ENROLLMENT IN QUALIFIED HEALTH PLANS IN CERTAIN EXCHANGES.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after such date specified by the Secretary, but not later than January 1, 2028, in
the case of an Exchange that the Secretary operates pursuant to section 1321(e)(1), the Secretary shall establish a verification process for new enrollments of individuals in, and changes in coverage for individuals under, a qualified health plan offered through such Exchange, which are submitted by an agent or broker in accordance with section 1312(e) and for which the agent or broker is eligible to receive a commission.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The enrollment verification process under subparagraph (A) shall include—

“(i) a requirement that the agent or broker provide with the new enrollment or coverage change such documentation or evidence (such as a standardized consent form) or other sources as the Secretary determines necessary to establish that the agent or broker has the consent of the individual for the new enrollment or coverage change;

“(ii) a requirement that any commissions due to a broker or agent for such new enrollment or coverage change are
paid after the enrollee has resolved all inconsistencies in accordance with paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 1411(e);

“(iii) a requirement that the information required under clause (i) and, as applicable, the date on which inconsistencies are resolved as described in clause (ii), is accessible to the applicable qualified health plan through a database or other resource, as determined by the Secretary, so that any commissions due to a broker or agent for such enrollment can be effectuated at the appropriate time;

“(iv) a requirement that individuals are notified of any changes to enrollment, coverage, the agent of record, or premium tax credits in a timely manner and that such notice provides plain language instructions on how individuals can cancel unauthorized activity;

“(v) a requirement that individuals be able to access their account information on a website or other technology platform, as defined by the Secretary, when used to submit an enrollment or plan change, in
lieu of the Exchange website described in subsection (d)(4)(C), including information on the agent of record, the qualified health plan, and when any changes are made to the agent of record or the qualified health plan, on a consumer-facing website or through a toll-free telephone hotline; and

“(vi) a requirement that the agent or broker report to the Secretary any third-party marketing organization or field marketing organization (as such terms are defined in section 1312(e)) involved in the chain of enrollment (as so defined) with respect to such new enrollment or coverage change.

“(C) CONSUMER PROTECTION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the enrollment verification process under subparagraph (A) prioritizes continuity of coverage and care for individuals, including by not disenrolling individuals from a qualified health plan without the consent of the individual, regardless of whether the broker, agent, or qualified health plan is in violation of any requirement under this paragraph.”
(2) Required reporting.—Section 1311(c)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18031(c)(1)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (H), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(J) report to the Secretary the termination (as defined in section 1312(e)(4)(C)) of an issuer.”.

(e) Authority to Regulate Field Marketing Organizations and Third-Party Marketing Organizations.—Section 1312(e) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18032(e)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(2) in subclause (II) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(3) by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through “brokers—” and inserting the following:

“(e) Regulation of Agents, Brokers, and Certain Marketing Organizations.—
“(1) AGENTS, BROKERS, AND CERTAIN MARKETING ORGANIZATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish procedures under which a State may allow—

“(i) agents or brokers—”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) field marketing organizations and third-party marketing organizations to participate in the chain of enrollment for an individual with respect to qualified health plans offered through an Exchange.

“(B) CRITERIA.—For plan years beginning on or after such date specified by the Secretary, but not later than January 1, 2028, the Secretary, by regulation, shall establish criteria for States to use in determining whether to allow agents and brokers to enroll individuals and employers in qualified health plans as described in subclause (I) of subparagraph (A)(i) and to assist individuals as described in subclause (II) of such subparagraph and field marketing organizations and third-party marketing organizations to participate in the chain of enrollment
as described in subparagraph (A)(ii). Such criteria shall, at a minimum, require that—

“(i) an agent or broker act in accordance with a standard of conduct that includes a duty of such agent or broker to act in the best interests of the enrollee;

“(ii) a field marketing organization or third-party marketing organization agree to report the termination of an agent or broker to the applicable State and the Secretary, including the reason for termination; and

“(iii) an agent, broker, field marketing organization, or third-party marketing organization—

“(I) meet such marketing requirements as are required by the Secretary;

“(II) meet marketing requirements in accordance with other applicable Federal or State law;

“(III) does not employ practices that are confusing or misleading, as determined by the Secretary;
“(IV) submit all marketing materials to the Secretary for, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, review and approval;

“(V) is a licensed agent or broker or meets other licensure requirements, as required by the State;

“(VI) register with the Secretary;

and

“(VII) does not compensate any individual or organization for referrals or any other service relating to the sale of, marketing for, or enrollment in qualified health plans unless such individual or organization meets the criteria described in subclauses (I) through (VI).

“(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) CHAIN OF ENROLLMENT.—The term ‘chain of enrollment’, with respect to enrollment of an individual in a qualified health plan offered through an Exchange, means any steps taken from marketing to such individual, to such individual making
an enrollment decision with respect to such a plan.

“(ii) Field Marketing Organization.—The term ‘field marketing organization’ means an organization or individual that directly employs or contracts with agents and brokers, or contracts with carriers, to provide functions relating to enrollment of individuals in qualified health plans offered through an Exchange as part of the chain of enrollment.

“(iii) Marketing.—The term ‘marketing’ means the use of marketing materials to provide information to current and prospective enrollees in a qualified health plan offered through an Exchange.

“(iv) Marketing Materials.—The term ‘marketing materials’ means materials relating to a qualified health plan offered through an Exchange or benefits offered through an Exchange that—

“(I) are intended—

“(aa) to draw an individual’s attention to such plan or the premium tax credits or cost-sharing...
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reductions for such plan or plans
offered through an Exchange;

“(bb) to influence an individual’s decision-making process
when selecting a qualified health
plan in which to enroll; or

“(cc) to influence an enrollee’s decision to stay enrolled in
such plan; and

“(II) include or address content
regarding the benefits, benefit struc-
ture, premiums, or cost sharing of
such plan.

“(v) TERMINATION.—The term ‘ter-
mination’, with respect to a contract or
business arrangement between an agent or
broker and a field marketing organization,
third-party marketing organization, or
health insurance issuer, means—

“(I) the ending of such contract
or business arrangement, either uni-
laterally by one of the parties or on
mutual agreement; or

“(II) the expiration of such con-
tract or business arrangement that is
not replaced by a substantially similar agreement.

“(vi) Third-party marketing organization.—The term ‘third-party marketing organization’ means an organization or individual that is compensated to perform lead generation, marketing, or sales relating to enrollment of individuals in qualified health plans offered through an Exchange as part of the chain of enrollment.”.

(d) Transparency.—Section 1312(e) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18032(e)) (as amended by subsection (c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(2) Audits.—

“(A) In general.—For plan years beginning on or after such date specified by the Secretary, but not later than January 1, 2028, the Secretary, in coordination with the States and in consultation with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, shall implement a process for the oversight and enforcement of agent and broker compliance with this section
and other applicable Federal and State law (including regulations) that shall include—

“(i) periodic audits of agents and brokers based on—

“(I) complaints filed with the Secretary by individuals enrolled by such an agent or broker in a qualified health plan offered through an Exchange;

“(II) an incident or enrollment pattern that suggests fraud; and

“(III) other factors determined by the Secretary; and

“(ii) a process under which the Secretary shall share audit results and refer potential cases of fraud to the relevant State department of insurance.

“(B) Effect.—Nothing in this paragraph limits or restricts any referrals made under section 1311(i)(3) or any enforcement actions under section 1411(h).

“(3) List.—The Secretary shall develop a process to regularly provide to qualified health plans, Exchanges, and States a list of suspended and terminated agents and brokers.”.