

Medicaid Restoration Efforts for COFA Migrants by the U.S. Congress

Paulo Pontemayor

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

May 16, 2012

Topics to be Discussed:

- Recap of last Call
- Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (1996)
- Legislative History in Past Congresses
- CHIPRA
- Current Congress
- Government Accountability Organization Report
- Discussion of Project

Recap of Last Call

- Approximately 20 participants
- States represented: Hawaii, California, Arkansas and Oregon were on the call
- Introductory Remarks and Protocol by Paul Otoko
- Introducing the importance and relevance of this project
- Outline of the “Stories from our Community” Project
- Reiteration that this project is **focused** on Medicaid restoration efforts for COFA Migrants at the Federal level

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (1996)

- Enacted into law in August of 1996
- Also known as “Welfare Reform”
- Restricted eligibility for federal means-tested programs such as Medicaid to people who are citizens or “qualified aliens”
- COFA Migrants are not qualified aliens
- Prior to this law COFA Migrants were eligible for Medicaid

Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization (2009)

- Provides a state option for covering “lawfully residing” children and pregnant women regardless of date of entry without any waiting period.
- CMS’ definition of “lawfully residing” includes “citizens of the Compact of Freely Associated States.”

Legislative History in Past Congresses

- 14 bills since 2001
- First bill H.R. 5067 (Congresswoman Mink)
- Mainly been introduced by Hawaii or Guam Representatives
- 111th Congress- first time it passes a Chamber of Congress as a provision within H.R. 3962
- Strategies to include as a provision in the Tri-Caucus Health Disparities bill in the current Congress (H.R. 2954 and S. 2474)

Current Congress

Congress	Sponsor	Bill Title
112th Congress (2011-2012)	Senator Akaka (with Senator Inouye and Senator Bingaman)	S.1504 -- Medicaid Restoration for Citizens of Freely Associated States Act of 2011
112th Congress (2011-2012)	Congresswoman Hirono (with Congresswoman Bordallo, Congresswoman Hanabusa, Congressman Faleomavaega)	H.R.1035 -- Medicaid Coverage for Citizens of Freely Associated States Act of 2011
112 th Congress (2011-2012)	Senator Akaka (with Senator Inouye)	S.2474 -- Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2012 (Included as Section 415)
112 th Congress (2011-2012)	Congresswoman Lee	H.R.2954 -- Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2011 (Included as Section 415)

Government Accountability Organization Report

GAO

United States Government Accountability Office
Report to Congressional Requesters

November 2011

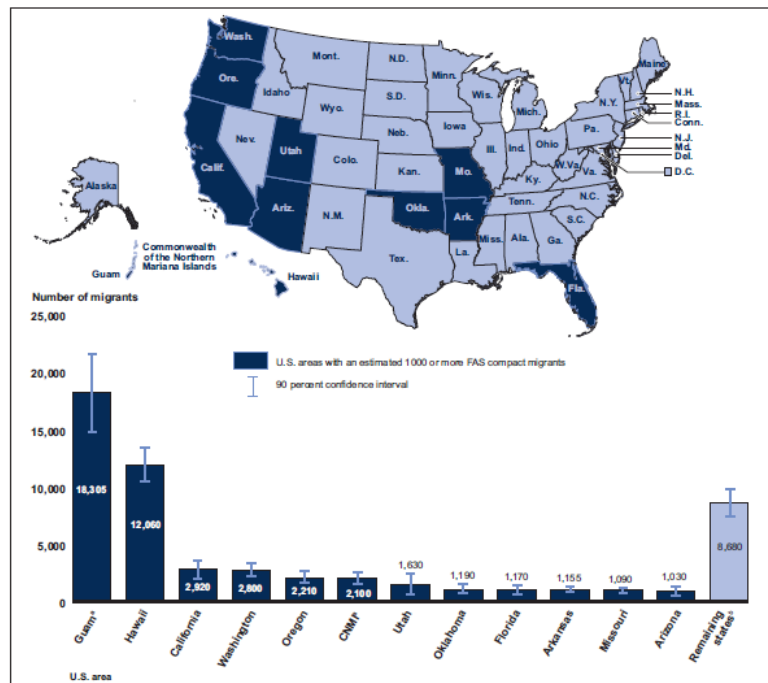
COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION

Improvements Needed to Assess and Address Growing Migration



GAO-12-64

Figure 2: Estimated Numbers of Compact Migrants in U.S. Areas, 2005-2009



Sources: Map Resources (map); GAO analysis of a special Census tabulation of American Community Survey 2005-2009 data for U.S. states; Census tabulations of 2008 FAS migrant survey data for Guam and the CNMI.

*The Guam and CNMI estimates are from the 2008 enumeration; remaining estimates are from the 2005-2009 ACS.

†Census suppressed the estimated values of remaining states to protect the confidentiality of individual respondents; we do not know how many of the remaining states contain migrants.

Compact Migrants Are Ineligible for Several Federal Programs

Various officials in Guam and Hawaii also cited compact migrants' limited eligibility for a number of federal programs, particularly Medicaid, as a key contributor to the cost of compact migration borne by the affected jurisdictions. Table 2 shows compact migrants' eligibility status for selected federal benefit programs.

Discussion of Project

- Brainstorming Session
- Please sign up for our Google Group:
- <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?pli=1&rm=full&formkey=dHZxdGk5RWdOdjFUOEVzRTVZRmlLdFE6MQ#gid=0>