

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6654

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to ensure the extension of the telehealth waiver authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language-pathologists, and certain other providers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 2020

Mrs. AXNE (for herself, Mr. BALDERSON, and Mr. HILL of Arkansas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to ensure the extension of the telehealth waiver authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language-pathologists, and certain other providers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Emergency COVID
5 Telehealth Response Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENSURING EXTENSION OF SECRETARIAL TELE-**
2 **HEALTH WAIVER AUTHORITY TO PHYSICAL**
3 **THERAPISTS, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS,**
4 **SPEECH LANGUAGE-PATHOLOGISTS, AND**
5 **CERTAIN OTHER PROVIDERS.**

6 Subsection (b) of section 1135 of the Social Security
7 Act is amended by adding at the end the following new
8 sentence:

9 “In exercising authority under paragraph (8) during the
10 period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on the
11 last day of the emergency period described in subsection
12 (g)(1)(B), the Secretary shall provide that a practitioner
13 described in section 1834(m) shall be treated as including
14 a physical therapist, physical therapist assistant working
15 under the supervision of a physical therapist, occupational
16 therapist, occupational therapy assistant working under
17 the supervision of an occupational therapist, speech lan-
18 guage-pathologist, clinical social worker (as defined in sec-
19 tion 1861(hh)(1)), and audiologist.”.

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