

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2772

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 5, 2019

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

---

## A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

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 “Medicare Mental  
5       Health Access Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS AS PHY-**  
2 **SICIANS FOR PURPOSES OF FURNISHING**  
3 **CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The first sentence of section  
5 1861(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(r))  
6 is amended—

- 7 (1) by striking “or” before “(5)”; and  
8 (2) by inserting before the period the following:  
9 “, or (6) a clinical psychologist, but only with re-  
10 spect to the furnishing of qualified psychologist serv-  
11 ices described in subsection (ii) for which the psy-  
12 chologist is legally authorized to perform by the  
13 State and who is acting within the scope of the psy-  
14 chologist’s license (or other authorization under  
15 State law)”.

16 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by  
17 this section shall apply to items and services furnished on  
18 or after January 1, 2020.

○