

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1171

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include physical therapists and occupational therapists as health professionals for purposes of the annual wellness visit under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself and Ms. STANSBURY) 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 XVIII of the Social Security Act to include physical therapists and occupational therapists as health professionals for purposes of the annual wellness visit under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

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 “Stopping Addiction
5 and Falls for the Elderly Act” or the “SAFE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**
2 **BENEFIT IN THE MEDICARE ANNUAL**
3 **WELLNESS VISIT AND INITIAL PREVENTIVE**
4 **PHYSICAL EXAM.**

5 (a) ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(hhh) of the
7 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(hhh)) is
8 amended—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
11 and” and inserting a semicolon;

12 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by strik-
13 ing the period at the end and inserting “;
14 and”; and

15 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing new subparagraph:

17 “(C) that, in the case of an individual who has
18 been determined by a physician to have fallen in the
19 previous calendar year, includes a falls risk assess-
20 ment and fall prevention services.”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (3)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
23 “or” at the end;

24 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
25 the period at the end and inserting “; or”;
26 and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing new subparagraph:

3 “(D) in the case of an individual described in
4 paragraph (1)(C), a physical therapist or an occupa-
5 tional therapist furnishing a separate falls risk as-
6 sessment and fall prevention services.”.

7 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
8 by paragraph (1) shall apply to annual wellness vis-
9 its furnished on or after January 1, 2026.

10 (b) INITIAL PREVENTIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINA-
11 TION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(ww)(2) of the
13 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(ww)(2)) is
14 amended—

15 (A) in subparagraph (N), by moving the
16 margins of such subparagraph 2 ems to the
17 left;

18 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (O) as
19 subparagraph (P); and

20 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (N)
21 the following new subparagraph:

22 “(O) In the case of an individual that has been
23 determined by a physician to have experienced a fall
24 in the previous calendar year, outpatient occupa-
25 tional therapy services (as defined in subsection (g))

1 and outpatient physical therapy services (as defined
2 in subsection (p)).”.

3 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
4 by paragraph (1) shall apply to initial preventive
5 physical examinations furnished on or after January
6 1, 2026.

7 **SEC. 3. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

8 Beginning January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter,
9 the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit
10 to Congress a report on the number of falls (as reported
11 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) experi-
12 enced by individuals aged 65 and older that received treat-
13 ment for pain or injury related to a fall or falls experi-
14 enced in the previous calendar year. With respect to each
15 subsequent report, such Secretary shall include the data
16 reported in previous years and describe any changes from
17 year to year.

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