

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4204

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow Medicare beneficiaries to choose their physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and chiropractors.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 allow Medicare beneficiaries to choose their physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and chiropractors.

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 Patient
5 Choice Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FREE CHOICE OF THERAPISTS FOR MEDICARE**
2 **BENEFICIARIES.**

3 Section 1802(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
4 1395a(b)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)—

6 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
7 (A), by striking “physician or practitioner” and
8 inserting “physician, practitioner, therapist, or
9 qualified audiologist”; and

10 (B) in subparagraph (B), in the matter
11 preceding clause (i), by striking “physician or
12 practitioner” and inserting “physician, practi-
13 tioner, therapist, or qualified audiologist”;

14 (2) in paragraph (2)(B)—

15 (A) in clause (i), by striking “physician or
16 practitioner” and inserting “physician, practi-
17 tioner, therapist, or qualified audiologist”;

18 (B) in clause (v), by striking “physicians
19 or practitioners” and inserting “physicians,
20 practitioners, therapists, or qualified audiol-
21 ogists”; and

22 (C) in the matter following clause (v), by
23 striking “physician or practitioner” and insert-
24 ing “physician, practitioner, therapist, or quali-
25 fied audiologist”;

26 (3) in paragraph (3)—

1 (A) in the heading, by striking “PHYSICIAN
2 OR PRACTITIONER” and inserting “PHYSICIAN,
3 PRACTITIONER, THERAPIST, OR QUALIFIED AU-
4 DIOLOGIST”;

5 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “phy-
6 sician or practitioner” and inserting “physician,
7 practitioner, therapist, or qualified audiologist”;

8 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (i) in clause (i), by striking “physician
10 or practitioner” each place it appears and
11 inserting “physician, practitioner, thera-
12 pist, or qualified audiologist”; and

13 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “physi-
14 cian or practitioner” and inserting “physi-
15 cian, practitioner, therapist, or qualified
16 audiologist”;

17 (D) in subparagraph (C)—

18 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
19 by striking “physician or practitioner” and
20 inserting “physician, practitioner, thera-
21 pist, or qualified audiologist”;

22 (ii) in clause (i), by striking “physi-
23 cian or practitioner” and inserting “physi-
24 cian, practitioner, therapist, or qualified
25 audiologist”; and

1 (iii) in clause (ii), by striking “physi-
2 cian or practitioner” and inserting “physi-
3 cian, practitioner, therapist, or qualified
4 audiologist”; and

5 (E) in subparagraph (D), by striking “phy-
6 sician or practitioner” each place it appears and
7 inserting “physician, practitioner, therapist, or
8 qualified audiologist”;

9 (4) in paragraph (5)—

10 (A) in the heading, by striking “PHYSI-
11 CIANS AND PRACTITIONERS” and inserting
12 “PHYSICIANS, PRACTITIONERS, THERAPISTS,
13 AND QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGISTS”;

14 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “phy-
15 sicians and practitioners” and inserting “physi-
16 cians, practitioners, therapists, and qualified
17 audiologists”; and

18 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

19 (i) in the manner preceding clause (i),
20 by striking “physicians and practitioners”
21 and inserting “physicians, practitioners,
22 therapists, and qualified audiologists”;

23 (ii) in clause (iv), by striking “physi-
24 cians and practitioners” and inserting

1 “physicians, practitioners, therapists, and
2 qualified audiologists”; and

3 (iii) in clause (v), by striking “physi-
4 cians and practitioners” and inserting
5 “physicians, practitioners, therapists, and
6 qualified audiologists”; and

7 (5) in paragraph (6)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
9 “paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of”;

10 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

11 (i) in the heading, by striking “PHYSI-
12 CIAN OR PRACTITIONER” and inserting
13 “PHYSICIAN, PRACTITIONER, THERAPIST,
14 OR QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGIST”; and

15 (ii) by striking “physician or practi-
16 tioner” each place it appears and inserting
17 “physician, practitioner, therapist, or
18 qualified audiologist”; and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(E) THERAPIST.—The term ‘therapist’ means
21 a qualified physical therapist (as such term is used
22 in section 1861(p)), a qualified occupational thera-
23 pist (as such term is used in 1861(g)), or a qualified
24 speech-language pathologist (as defined in
25 1861(ll)(4)(A)).

1 “(F) QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGIST.—The term
2 ‘qualified audiologist’ has the meaning given such
3 term in section 1861(l)(4)(B).”.

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