

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6841

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include peer support services at certain facilities under the Medicare program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2025

Ms. CHU (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) 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 peer support services at certain facilities 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 “Promoting Effective
5 and Empowering Recovery Services in Medicare Act of
6 2025” or the “PEERS Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF PEER SUPPORT SERVICES AT CER-**
2 **TAIN FACILITIES UNDER THE MEDICARE**
3 **PROGRAM.**

4 (a) SERVICES.—

5 (1) INCLUSION AT COMMUNITY MENTAL
6 HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 1832(a)(2)(J) of the
7 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395k(a)(2)(J)) is
8 amended by striking “and intensive outpatient serv-
9 ices” and all that follows through the period at the
10 end and inserting “, intensive outpatient services,
11 and peer support services (as defined in section
12 1861(nnn)(1)) provided by a community mental
13 health center (as defined in section
14 1861(ff)(3)(B)).”.

15 (2) INCLUSION AS RHC AND FQHC SERVICES.—
16 Section 1861(aa)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act
17 (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(1)(B)) is amended—

18 (A) by striking “or by a mental” and in-
19 serting “by a mental”; and

20 (B) by inserting “or by a peer support spe-
21 cialist (as defined in subsection (nnn)(2))” after
22 “subsection (ll)(4)),”.

23 (b) DEFINITION.—Section 1861 of the Social Secu-
24 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended by adding at the
25 end the following new subsection:

1 “(nnn) PEER SUPPORT SERVICES AND PEER SUP-
2 PORT SPECIALIST.—

3 “(1) PEER SUPPORT SERVICES.—The term
4 ‘peer support services’ means emotional, informa-
5 tional, instrumental, and social and community sup-
6 port services—

7 “(A) furnished—

8 “(i) by a Federally qualified health
9 center, a rural health clinic, a community
10 mental health center, or a certified commu-
11 nity behavioral health clinic (as described
12 in section 223 of the Protecting Access to
13 Medicare Act of 2014), using a peer sup-
14 port specialist; and

15 “(ii) to an individual who has been di-
16 agnosed with a mental health condition or
17 substance use disorder; and

18 “(B) that are designed to assist such indi-
19 vidual in achieving recovery, integration in the
20 community, self-empowerment, and self-deter-
21 mination (as specified by the Secretary).

22 “(2) PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST.—The term
23 ‘peer support specialist’ means an individual who—

24 “(A) is recovering from a mental health or
25 substance use condition; and

1 “(B) is certified as qualified to furnish
 2 peer support services under a certification proc-
 3 ess consistent with the National Practice Guide-
 4 lines for Peer Supporters and inclusive of the
 5 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
 6 Administration Core Competencies for Peer
 7 Workers in Behavioral Health Settings (as es-
 8 tablished by the State in which such individual
 9 furnishes such services or under such certifi-
 10 cation process determined appropriate by the
 11 Secretary).”.

12 (c) EXCLUSION MODIFICATION.—Section 1862(a)(1)
 13 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(a)(1)) is
 14 amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (O), by striking “and” at
 16 the end;

17 (2) in subparagraph (P), by striking the semi-
 18 colon at the end and inserting “, and”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 20 paragraph:

21 “(Q) in the case of peer support services
 22 (as defined in section 1861(nnn(1))), which are
 23 not furnished by a rural health clinic, a Feder-
 24 ally qualified health center, a community men-
 25 tal health center, or a certified community be-

1 havioral health clinic (as described in section
2 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of
3 2014);”.

4 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 this section shall apply to items and services furnished on
6 or after January 1, 2027.

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