

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7324

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand eligibility for incentives under the Medicare health professional shortage area bonus program to practitioners furnishing mental health and substance use disorder services.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Ms. BUDZINSKI (for herself and Mr. MANN) 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

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## A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand eligibility for incentives under the Medicare health professional shortage area bonus program to practitioners furnishing mental health and substance use disorder services.

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 “More Behavioral  
5 Health Providers Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR INCENTIVES UNDER**  
2 **THE MEDICARE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL**  
3 **SHORTAGE AREA BONUS PROGRAM TO PRAC-**  
4 **TITIONERS FURNISHING MENTAL HEALTH**  
5 **AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES.**

6 Section 1833(m) of the Social Security Act (42  
7 U.S.C. 1395l(m)) is amended—

8 (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the  
9 following new paragraph:

10 “(1) In the case of—

11 “(A) physicians’ services (other than specified  
12 health services that are eligible for the additional  
13 payment under subparagraph (B)) furnished in a  
14 year to an individual, who is covered under the in-  
15 surance program established by this part and who  
16 incurs expenses for such services, in an area that is  
17 designated (under section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public  
18 Health Service Act) as a health professional short-  
19 age area as identified by the Secretary prior to the  
20 beginning of such year, in addition to the amount  
21 otherwise paid under this part, there also shall be  
22 paid to the physician (or to an employer or facility  
23 in the cases described in clause (A) of section  
24 1842(b)(6)) (on a monthly or quarterly basis) from  
25 the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust

1 Fund an amount equal to 10 percent of the payment  
2 amount for the service under this part; and

3 “(B) specified health services (as defined in  
4 paragraph (5)) furnished in a year to an individual,  
5 who is covered under the insurance program estab-  
6 lished by this part and who incurs expenses for such  
7 services, in an area that is designated (under such  
8 section 332(a)(1)(A)) as a mental health profes-  
9 sional shortage area as identified by the Secretary  
10 prior to the beginning of such year, in addition to  
11 the amount otherwise paid under this part, there  
12 also shall be paid to the physician or applicable  
13 practitioner (as defined in paragraph (6)) (or to an  
14 employer or facility in the cases described in clause  
15 (A) of section 1842(b)(6)) (on a monthly or quar-  
16 terly basis) from such Trust Fund an amount equal  
17 to 15 percent of the payment amount for the service  
18 under this part.”;

19 (2) in paragraph (2)—

20 (A) by striking “in paragraph (1)” and in-  
21 serting “in subparagraph (A) or (B) of para-  
22 graph (1)”; and

23 (B) by inserting “or, in the case of speci-  
24 fied health services, the physician or applicable  
25 practitioner” after “physician”;

1           (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “paragraph  
2           (1)” each place it appears and inserting “subpara-  
3           graph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1)”;

4           (4) in paragraph (4)—

5                 (A) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or  
6                 applicable practitioner” after “physician”; and

7                 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or  
8                 applicable practitioner” after “physician”; and

9           (5) by adding at the end the following new  
10          paragraphs:

11          “(5) In this subsection, the term ‘specified health  
12          services’ means services otherwise covered under this part  
13          that are furnished on or after January 1, 2027, by a phy-  
14          sician or an applicable practitioner to an individual—

15                 “(A) for purposes of diagnosis, evaluation, or  
16                 treatment of a mental health disorder, as determined  
17                 by the Secretary; or

18                 “(B) with a substance use disorder diagnosis  
19                 for purposes of treatment of such disorder or co-oc-  
20                 curring mental health disorder, as determined by the  
21                 Secretary.

22          “(6) In this subsection, the term ‘applicable practi-  
23          tioner’ means the following:

1           “(A) A physician assistant, nurse practitioner,  
2           or clinical nurse specialist (as defined in section  
3           1861(aa)(5)).

4           “(B) A clinical social worker (as defined in sec-  
5           tion 1861(hh)(1)).

6           “(C) A clinical psychologist (as defined by the  
7           Secretary for purposes of section 1861(ii)).

8           “(D) A marriage and family therapist (as de-  
9           fined in section 1861(lll)(2)).

10          “(E) A mental health counselor (as defined in  
11          section 1861(lll)(4)).”.

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