

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9851

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require providers of services to provide patients access to clergy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2026

Mr. FLOOD 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 require providers of services to provide patients access to clergy.

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 “Protecting Access to
5 Spiritual Treatment and Organized Religion Act of 2026”
6 or the “PASTOR Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING PROVIDERS OF SERVICES TO PROVIDE**
2 **PATIENTS ACCESS TO CLERGY.**

3 Section 1866(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
4 U.S.C. 1395cc(a)(1)) is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (X), by striking “and” at
6 the end;

7 (2) in subparagraph (Y), by striking the period
8 and inserting “, and”; and

9 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (Y) the fol-
10 lowing new subparagraph:

11 “(Z) beginning January 1, 2028, upon request
12 of an individual receiving items and services from
13 such provider and notwithstanding any waiver under
14 section 1135, to allow a member of clergy designated
15 by such individual access to such individual, pro-
16 vided that such clergy member adheres to such safe-
17 ty measures and other protocols as may be specified
18 by the Secretary (in consultation with providers of
19 services, States, and religious organizations).”.

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