

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9946

To require the coverage of testing for certain sexually transmitted infections without the imposition of cost-sharing, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2026

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. McIVER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BALINT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Veterans' Affairs, Armed Services, and Natural Resources, 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 require the coverage of testing for certain sexually transmitted infections without the imposition of cost-sharing, 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 “Equity in STI Testing  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COVERAGE OF TESTING FOR CERTAIN SEXUALLY**  
2 **TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS WITHOUT COST-**  
3 **SHARING.**

4 (a) COVERAGE OF TESTING UNDER MEDICARE AD-  
5 VANTAGE.—

6 (1) COVERAGE.—Section 1852(a)(1)(B) of the  
7 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–22(a)(1)(B))  
8 is amended—

9 (A) in clause (iv)—

10 (i) by redesignating subclause (VIII)  
11 as subclause (IX); and

12 (ii) by inserting after subclause (VII)  
13 the following new subclause:

14 “(VIII) Screening testing for  
15 each of HIV, gonorrhea, syphilis,  
16 trichomoniasis, and chlamydia (and  
17 the administration of such tests) for  
18 which benefits are provided under  
19 part B as an additional preventive  
20 service.”; and

21 (B) in clause (v), by striking “and (VI)”  
22 and inserting “(VI), and (VIII)”.

23 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
24 by this subsection shall take effect on the date of the  
25 enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect  
26 to plan years beginning after such date.

1 (b) COVERAGE OF TESTING UNDER MEDICAID.—

2 (1) COVERAGE.—Section 1905(a) of such Act  
3 (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a)) is amended—

4 (A) in paragraph (3)—

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

7 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding  
8 “and” at the end; and

9 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
10 lowing new subparagraph:

11 “(C) screening testing for each of HIV, gonor-  
12 rhea, syphilis, trichomoniasis, and chlamydia (and  
13 the administration of such tests), if such testing (or  
14 administration, as applicable) would be covered  
15 under health insurance coverage pursuant to section  
16 2713(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act for an  
17 individual enrolled under such coverage;” and

18 (B) in paragraph (13), in the matter pre-  
19 ceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “(other  
20 than testing and services described in para-  
21 graph (3)(C))” after “preventive”.

22 (2) ELIMINATION OF COST-SHARING.—Section  
23 1916 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396o) is amended—

24 (A) in subsection (a)(2)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (I), by striking  
2 “or” at the end;

3 (ii) in subparagraph (J), by striking  
4 “and” at the end and inserting “or”; and

5 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
6 lowing new subparagraph:

7 “(K) screening testing (and the adminis-  
8 tration of such tests) described in section  
9 1905(a)(3)(C); and”; and

10 (B) in subsection (b)(2)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (I), by striking  
12 “or” at the end;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (J), by striking  
14 “and” at the end and inserting “or”; and

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

17 “(K) screening testing (and the adminis-  
18 tration of such tests) described in section  
19 1905(a)(3)(C); and”.

20 (3) APPLICATION TO ALTERNATIVE COST-SHAR-  
21 ING.—Section 1916A(b)(3)(B) of such Act (42  
22 U.S.C. 1396o–1(b)(3)(B)) is amended by adding at  
23 the end the following new clause:

1 “(xv) Screening testing (and the ad-  
2 ministration of such tests) described in  
3 section 1905(a)(3)(C).”.

4 (4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
6 subparagraph (B), the amendments made by  
7 this subsection shall take effect on the date of  
8 the enactment of this Act and shall apply with  
9 respect to calendar year quarters beginning on  
10 or after the date that is 1 year after such date.

11 (B) EXCEPTION IF STATE LEGISLATION  
12 REQUIRED.—In the case of a State plan for  
13 medical assistance under title XIX of the Social  
14 Security Act which the Secretary of Health and  
15 Human Services determines requires State leg-  
16 islation (other than legislation appropriating  
17 funds) in order for the plan to meet the addi-  
18 tional requirements imposed by the amend-  
19 ments made by this subsection, the State plan  
20 shall not be regarded as failing to comply with  
21 the requirements of such title solely on the  
22 basis of its failure to meet these additional re-  
23 quirements before the first day of the first cal-  
24 endar quarter beginning after the close of the  
25 first regular session of the State legislature that

1 begins after the date of the enactment of this  
2 Act. For purposes of the previous sentence, in  
3 the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative  
4 session, each year of such session shall be  
5 deemed to be a separate regular session of the  
6 State legislature.

7 (c) COVERAGE OF TESTING UNDER CHIP.—

8 (1) REQUIRED COVERAGE OF SEXUALLY TRANS-  
9 MITTED INFECTIONS TESTING.—Section 2103(c) of  
10 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397cc(c)) is amended by add-  
11 ing at the end the following new paragraph:

12 “(13) REQUIRED COVERAGE OF SEXUALLY  
13 TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS TESTING.—The child  
14 health assistance provided to a targeted low-income  
15 child shall include coverage of any screening testing  
16 for each of HIV, gonorrhea, syphilis, trichomoniasis,  
17 and chlamydia (and the administration of such  
18 tests), if such testing (or administration, as applica-  
19 ble) would be covered under health insurance cov-  
20 erage pursuant to section 2713(a)(1) of the Public  
21 Health Service Act for an individual enrolled under  
22 such coverage.”.

23 (2) ELIMINATION OF COST-SHARING.—Section  
24 2103(e)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397cc(e)(2)) is  
25 amended—

1 (A) in the heading, by inserting “SEXU-  
2 ALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS TESTING,” be-  
3 fore “OR PREGNANCY-RELATED ASSISTANCE”;  
4 and

5 (B) by inserting “screening testing de-  
6 scribed in subsection (c)(12) (and the adminis-  
7 tration of such tests)” before “services de-  
8 scribed in section 1916(a)(2)(G)”.

9 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
11 subparagraph (B), the amendments made by  
12 this subsection shall take effect on the date of  
13 the enactment of this Act and shall apply with  
14 respect to calendar year quarters beginning on  
15 or after the date that is 1 year after such date.

16 (B) EXCEPTION IF STATE LEGISLATION  
17 REQUIRED.—In the case of a State child health  
18 plan for child health assistance under title XXI  
19 of the Social Security Act which the Secretary  
20 of Health and Human Services determines re-  
21 quires State legislation (other than legislation  
22 appropriating funds) in order for the plan to  
23 meet the additional requirements imposed by  
24 the amendments made by this subsection, the  
25 State child health plan shall not be regarded as

1 failing to comply with the requirements of such  
2 title solely on the basis of its failure to meet  
3 these additional requirements before the first  
4 day of the first calendar quarter beginning after  
5 the close of the first regular session of the  
6 State legislature that begins after the date of  
7 the enactment of this Act. For purposes of the  
8 previous sentence, in the case of a State that  
9 has a 2-year legislative session, each year of  
10 such session shall be deemed to be a separate  
11 regular session of the State legislature.

12 (d) COVERAGE OF TESTING WITH RESPECT TO  
13 TRICARE.—

14 (1) COVERAGE.—Title 10, United States Code,  
15 is amended—

16 (A) in section 1074d—

17 (i) by redesignating subsection (b) as  
18 subsection (c); and

19 (ii) by inserting before subsection (c),  
20 as so redesignated, the following new sub-  
21 section:

22 “(b) COVERAGE OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFEC-  
23 TIONS TESTING.—Members and former members of the  
24 uniformed services entitled to medical care under section  
25 1074 or 1074a of this title shall also be entitled to screen-

1 ing testing for each of HIV, gonorrhea, syphilis, trichomo-  
 2 niasis, and chlamydia (and the administration of such  
 3 tests), if such testing (or administration, as applicable)  
 4 would be covered under health insurance coverage pursu-  
 5 ant to section 2713(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act  
 6 for an individual enrolled under such coverage, as part of  
 7 such medical care.”; and

8 (B) in section 1079(a), by adding at the  
 9 end the following new paragraph:

10 “(20) Screening testing for each of HIV, gonor-  
 11 rhea, syphilis, trichomoniasis, and chlamydia (and  
 12 the administration of such tests), if such testing (or  
 13 administration, as applicable) would be covered  
 14 under health insurance coverage pursuant to section  
 15 2713(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act for an  
 16 individual enrolled under such coverage, shall be pro-  
 17 vided as appropriate.”.

18 (2) ELIMINATION OF COST-SHARING.—Such  
 19 title is further amended—

20 (A) in section 1075a, by adding at the end  
 21 the following new subsection:

22 “(d) ELIMINATION OF COST-SHARING FOR SEXU-  
 23 ALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS TESTING.—Notwith-  
 24 standing any other provision under this section, cost-shar-  
 25 ing may not be imposed or collected with respect to any

1 beneficiary enrolled in TRICARE Prime for screening  
2 testing for each of HIV, gonorrhea, syphilis, trichomo-  
3 niasis, and chlamydia (and the administration of such  
4 tests), if such testing (or administration, as applicable)  
5 would be covered under health insurance coverage pursu-  
6 ant to section 2713(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act  
7 for an individual enrolled under such coverage, that is pro-  
8 vided under TRICARE Prime.”;

9 (B) in section 1075(c), by adding at the  
10 end the following new paragraph:

11 “(4) Notwithstanding any other provision under  
12 this section, cost-sharing may not be imposed or col-  
13 lected with respect to any beneficiary enrolled in  
14 TRICARE Select for screening testing for each of  
15 HIV, gonorrhea, syphilis, trichomoniasis, and  
16 chlamydia (and the administration of such tests), if  
17 such testing (or administration, as applicable) would  
18 be covered under health insurance coverage pursuant  
19 to section 2713(a)(1) of the Public Health Service  
20 Act for an individual enrolled under such coverage,  
21 that is provided under TRICARE Select.”; and

22 (C) in section 1086(d)(3)—

23 (i) by redesignating subparagraph (C)  
24 as subparagraph (D); and

1 (ii) by inserting before subparagraph  
2 (D), as so redesignated, the following new  
3 subparagraph:

4 “(C) Notwithstanding any other provision  
5 under this section, cost-sharing may not be im-  
6 posed or collected under a plan under sub-  
7 section (a) with respect to a person described in  
8 paragraph (2) for screening testing for each of  
9 HIV, gonorrhea, syphilis, trichomoniasis, and  
10 chlamydia (and the administration of such  
11 tests), if such testing (or administration, as ap-  
12 plicable) would be covered under health insur-  
13 ance coverage pursuant to section 2713(a)(1) of  
14 the Public Health Service Act for an individual  
15 enrolled under such coverage.”.

16 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
17 by this subsection shall take effect on January 1 of  
18 the year following the date of the enactment of this  
19 Act.

20 (e) COVERAGE OF TESTING WITH RESPECT TO VET-  
21 ERANS.—

22 (1) COVERAGE.—Chapter 17 of title 38, United  
23 States Code, is amended by inserting after section  
24 1720J the following new section (and conforming

1 the table of sections at the beginning of such chap-  
2 ter accordingly):

3 **“§ 1720K. Sexually transmitted infections testing**

4 “(a) COVERAGE OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFEC-  
5 TIONS TESTING.—The Secretary shall furnish screening  
6 testing for each of HIV, gonorrhea, syphilis, trichomo-  
7 niasis, and chlamydia (and the administration of such  
8 tests), if such testing (or administration, as applicable)  
9 would be covered under health insurance coverage pursu-  
10 ant to section 2713(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act  
11 for an individual enrolled under such coverage, to an eligi-  
12 ble individual at a medical facility of the Department pur-  
13 suant to this section.

14 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual is eligible for the  
15 testing described in subsection (a) if the individual is a  
16 veteran who is enrolled in the system of annual patient  
17 enrollment established under section 1705(a) of this title.

18 “(c) PROHIBITION ON COST-SHARING.—Notwith-  
19 standing subsections (f) and (g) of section 1710 and sec-  
20 tion 1722A of this title, the Secretary may not require  
21 an eligible individual to make any copayment for, or  
22 charge such individual for any other cost of, the receipt  
23 of the testing described in subsection (a).”.

24 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
25 by this subsection shall take effect on January 1 of

1 the year following the date of the enactment of this  
2 Act.

3 (f) COVERAGE OF TESTING WITH RESPECT TO INDI-  
4 ANS RECEIVING PURCHASED/REFERRED CARE.—

5 (1) COVERAGE.—The Secretary of Health and  
6 Human Services shall cover, without the imposition  
7 of any cost-sharing requirements, the cost of pro-  
8 viding screening testing (and the administration of  
9 such tests) for each of HIV, gonorrhea, syphilis,  
10 trichomoniasis, and chlamydia, if such testing (or  
11 administration, as applicable) would be covered  
12 under health insurance coverage pursuant to section  
13 2713(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act for an  
14 individual enrolled under such coverage, to Indians  
15 (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care  
16 Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)) receiving health  
17 services through the Indian Health Service, includ-  
18 ing through an Urban Indian Organization, regard-  
19 less of whether such tests have been authorized  
20 under the purchased/referred care system funded by  
21 the Indian Health Service or are covered as a health  
22 service of the Indian Health Service.

23 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall  
24 take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act  
25 and shall apply to items and services furnished on

- 1 or after the first day of the calendar year beginning
- 2 after such date.

