

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1624

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a floor on the work geographic index for physicians' services furnished in Hawaii.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 2025

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a floor on the work geographic index for physicians' services furnished in Hawaii.

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 Care in Hawaii Act” or the “PATCH Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FLOOR ON WORK GEOGRAPHIC INDEX FOR PHYSI-**  
7 **CIANS' SERVICES FURNISHED IN HAWAII.**

8 Section 1848(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
9 1395w–4(e)) is amended—

1           (1) in paragraph (1)(A), in the matter pre-  
2       ceding clause (i), by striking “and (I)” and inserting  
3       “(I), and (J)”; and

4           (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
5       paragraph:

6           “(J) FLOOR ON WORK GEOGRAPHIC INDEX  
7       FOR SERVICES FURNISHED IN HAWAII.—For  
8       purposes of payment for services furnished in  
9       Hawaii on or after January 1, 2026, after cal-  
10      culating the work geographic index in subpara-  
11      graph (A)(iii), the Secretary shall increase the  
12      work geographic index to 1.5 if such index  
13      would otherwise be less than 1.5. The preceding  
14      sentence shall not be applied in a budget neu-  
15      tral manner.”.

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