

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 939

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for dental and oral health care, hearing care, and vision care under the Medicare program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 11 (legislative day, MARCH 10), 2025

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for dental and oral health care, hearing care, and vision care 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 “Medicare Dental,
5 Hearing, and Vision Expansion Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. COVERAGE OF DENTAL AND ORAL HEALTH CARE.**

7 (a) COVERAGE.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social Se-
8 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)) is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (JJ), by adding “and” at
 2 the end; and

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

5 “(KK) dental and oral health services (as de-
 6 fined in subsection (nnn));”.

7 (b) DENTAL AND ORAL HEALTH SERVICES DE-
 8 FINED.—Section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42
 9 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 10 lowing new subsection:

11 “(nnn) DENTAL AND ORAL HEALTH SERVICES.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
 13 graph (2), the term ‘dental and oral health services’
 14 means the following items and services that are fur-
 15 nished by a doctor of dental surgery or of dental
 16 medicine (as described in subsection (r)(2)) or an
 17 oral health professional (as defined in paragraph
 18 (3)) on or after January 1, 2027 (or January 1,
 19 2026, in the case of dentures):

20 “(A) PREVENTIVE AND SCREENING SERV-
 21 ICES.—Preventive and screening services, in-
 22 cluding oral exams, dental cleanings, dental x-
 23 rays, and fluoride treatments.

24 “(B) PROCEDURES AND TREATMENT
 25 SERVICES.—Services to address oral disease, in-

cluding services such as restorative services, prosthodontic and endodontic services, including fillings bridges, crowns, and root canals, periodontal maintenance, periodontal sealing and root planing, tooth extractions, therapeutic pulpotomy, and other related items and services.

“(C) DENTURES AND DENTAL PROSTHETICS.—Complete dentures, partial dentures, and implants, including related items and services.

“(2) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term does not include items and services for which, as of the date of the enactment of this subsection, coverage was permissible under section 1862(a)(12) and cosmetic services not otherwise covered under section 1862(a)(10).

“(3) ORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.—The term ‘oral health professional’ means, with respect to dental and oral health services, a health professional (other than a doctor of dental surgery or of dental medicine (as described in subsection (r)(2))) who is licensed to furnish such services, acting within the scope of such license, by the State in which such services are furnished.”.

1 (c) PAYMENT; COINSURANCE; AND LIMITATIONS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(a)(1) of the
3 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)) is
4 amended—

5 (A) in subparagraph (N), by inserting
6 “and dental and oral health services (as defined
7 in section 1861(nnn))” after “section
8 1861(hhh)(1)”;

9 (B) by striking “and” before “(HH)”;

10 (C) by inserting before the semicolon at
11 the end the following: “and (II) with respect to
12 dental and oral health services (as defined in
13 section 1861(nnn)), the amount paid shall be
14 the payment amount specified under section
15 1834(aa)”.

16 (2) PAYMENT AND LIMITS SPECIFIED.—Section
17 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m)
18 is amended by adding at the end the following new
19 subsection:

20 “(aa) PAYMENT AND LIMITS FOR DENTAL AND ORAL
21 HEALTH SERVICES.—

22 “(1) PAYMENT.—The payment amount under
23 this part for dental and oral health services (as de-
24 fined in section 1861(nnn)) shall be, subject to para-
25 graphs (3) and (4), 80 percent (or 100 percent, in

the case of preventive and screening services described in section 1861(nnn)(1)(A)) of the lesser of—

“(A) the actual charge for the service; or

“(B)(i) in the case of such services furnished by a doctor of dental surgery or of dental medicine (as described in section 1861(r)(2)), the amount determined under the fee schedule established under paragraph (2); or

“(ii) in the case of such services furnished by an oral health professional (as defined in section 1861(nnn)(3)), 85 percent of the amount determined under the fee schedule established under paragraph (2).

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF FEE SCHEDULE FOR DENTAL AND ORAL HEALTH SERVICES.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a fee schedule for dental and oral health services furnished in 2027 (or 2026, in the case of dentures) and subsequent years. The fee schedule amount for a dental or oral health service shall be equal to 70 percent of the national median

1 fee (as determined under subparagraph
 2 (B)) for the service or a similar service for
 3 the year (or, in the case of dentures, at the
 4 bundled payment amount under clause (iv)
 5 of such subparagraph), adjusted by the ge-
 6 ographic adjustment factor established
 7 under section 1848(e)(2) for the area for
 8 the year.

9 “(ii) CONSULTATION.—In carrying
 10 out this paragraph, the Secretary shall
 11 consult annually with organizations rep-
 12 resenting dentists and other providers who
 13 furnish dental and oral health services and
 14 shall share with such providers the data
 15 and data analysis used to determine fee
 16 schedule amounts under this paragraph.

17 “(B) DETERMINATION OF NATIONAL ME-
 18 DIAN FEE.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of
 20 subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall
 21 apply the national median fee for a dental
 22 or oral health service for 2027 (or 2026, in
 23 the case of dentures) and subsequent years
 24 in accordance with this subparagraph.

1 “(ii) USE OF 2020 DENTAL FEE SUR-
2 VEY.—

3 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as
4 provided in clause (iii) and clause (iv),
5 the national median fee for a dental
6 or oral health service shall be equal
7 to—

8 “(aa) for 2027 (or 2026, in
9 the case of dentures), the median
10 fee for the service in the table ti-
11 tled ‘General Practitioners—Na-
12 tional’ of the ‘2020 Survey of
13 Dental Fees’ published by the
14 American Dental Association, in-
15 creased by the applicable percent
16 increase for the year determined
17 under subclause (II), as reduced
18 by the productivity adjustment
19 under subclause (III); and

20 “(bb) for 2028 (or 2027, in
21 the case of dentures) and subse-
22 quent years, the amount deter-
23 mined under this subclause for
24 the preceding year, updated pur-
25 suant to subparagraph (C)(i).

“(II) APPLICABLE PERCENT INCREASE.—The applicable percent increase determined under this subclause for a year is an amount equal to the percentage increase between—

“(aa) the consumer price index for all urban consumers (United States city average) ending with June of the previous year; and

“(bb) the consumer price index for all urban consumers (United States city average) ending with June of 2026 (or 2025, in the case of dentures).

“(III) PRODUCTIVITY ADJUSTMENT.—After determining the applicable percentage increase under subclause (II) for a year, the Secretary shall reduce such percentage increase by the productivity adjustment described in section 1886(b)(3)(B)(xi)(II).

“(iii) DETERMINATION IF INSUFFICIENT SURVEY DATA.—If the Secretary de-

1 termines there is insufficient data under
 2 the Survey described in clause (ii) with re-
 3 spect to a dental or oral health service, the
 4 national median fee for the service for a
 5 year shall be equal to an amount estab-
 6 lished for the service using 1 or more of
 7 the following methods, as determined ap-
 8 propriate by the Secretary:

9 “(I) The payment basis deter-
 10 mined under section 1848.

11 “(II) Fee schedules for dental
 12 and oral health services which shall
 13 include, as practicable, fee sched-
 14 ules—

15 “(aa) under Medicare Ad-
 16 vantage plans under part C;

17 “(bb) under State plans (or
 18 waivers of such plans) under title
 19 XIX; and

20 “(cc) established by other
 21 health care payers.

22 “(iv) SPECIAL RULE FOR DEN-
 23 TURES.—

24 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Sec-
 25 retary shall make payment for den-

1 tures and associated professional serv-
2 ices as a bundled payment as deter-
3 mined by the Secretary.

4 “(II) PAYMENT CONSIDER-
5 ATIONS.—In establishing such bun-
6 dled payment, the Secretary shall con-
7 sider the national median fee for the
8 service for the year determined under
9 clause (ii) or (iii) and the rate deter-
10 mined for such dentures under the
11 Federal Supply Schedule of the Gen-
12 eral Services Administration, as pub-
13 lished by such Administration in
14 2021, updated to the year involved
15 using the applicable percent increase
16 for the year determined under clause
17 (ii)(II), as reduced by the productivity
18 adjustment under clause (ii)(III), and
19 shall ensure that the payment compo-
20 nent for dentures under such bundled
21 payment does not exceed the max-
22 imum rate determined for such den-
23 tures under the Federal Supply
24 Schedule, as so published and updated
25 to the year involved.

1 “(C) ANNUAL UPDATE AND ADJUST-
2 MENTS.—

3 “(i) ANNUAL UPDATE.—The Sec-
4 retary shall update payment amounts de-
5 termined under the fee schedule from year
6 to year beginning in 2028 (or 2027, in the
7 case of dentures) by increasing such
8 amounts from the prior year by the per-
9 centage increase in the consumer price
10 index for all urban consumers (United
11 States city average) for the 12-month pe-
12 riod ending with June of the preceding
13 year, reduced by the productivity adjust-
14 ment described in section
15 1886(b)(3)(B)(xi)(II).

16 “(ii) ADJUSTMENTS.—

17 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Sec-
18 retary shall, to the extent the Sec-
19 retary determines to be necessary and
20 subject to subclause (II), adjust the
21 amounts determined under the fee
22 schedule established under this para-
23 graph for 2028 (or 2027, in the case
24 of dentures) and subsequent years to
25 take into account changes in dental

1 practice, coding changes, new data on
 2 work, practice, or malpractice ex-
 3 penses, or the addition of new proce-
 4 dures.

5 “(II) LIMITATION ON ANNUAL
 6 ADJUSTMENTS.—The adjustments
 7 under subclause (I) for a year shall
 8 not cause the amount of expenditures
 9 under this part for the year to differ
 10 by more than \$20,000,000 from the
 11 amount of expenditures under this
 12 part that would have been made if
 13 such adjustments had not been made.

14 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—With respect to dental and
 15 oral health services that are preventive and screen-
 16 ing services described in paragraph (1)(A) of section
 17 1861(nnn)—

18 “(A) payment shall be made under this
 19 part for—

20 “(i) not more than 2 oral exams in a
 21 year;

22 “(ii) not more than 2 dental cleanings
 23 in a year;

24 “(iii) not more than 1 fluoride treat-
 25 ment in a year; and

1 “(iv) not more than 1 full-mouth se-
 2 ries of x-rays as part of a preventive and
 3 screening oral exam every 3 years; and

4 “(B) in the case of preventive and screen-
 5 ing services not described in subparagraph (A),
 6 payment shall be made under this part only at
 7 such frequencies determined appropriate by the
 8 Secretary.

9 “(4) INCENTIVES FOR RURAL PROVIDERS.—In
 10 the case of dental and oral health services furnished
 11 by a doctor of dental surgery or of dental medicine
 12 (as described in section 1861(r)(2)) or an oral
 13 health professional (as defined in section
 14 1861(nnn)(3)) who predominantly furnishes such
 15 services under this part in an area that is designated
 16 by the Secretary (under section 332(a)(1)(A) of the
 17 Public Health Service Act) as a health professional
 18 shortage area, in addition to the amount of payment
 19 that would otherwise be made for such services
 20 under this subsection, there also shall be paid an
 21 amount equal to 10 percent of the payment amount
 22 for the service under this subsection for such doctor
 23 or professional.

24 “(5) LIMITATION ON BENEFICIARY LIABIL-
 25 ITY.—The provisions of section 1848(g) shall apply

1 to a nonparticipating doctor of dental surgery or of
 2 dental medicine (as described in section 1861(r)(2))
 3 who does not accept payment on an assignment-re-
 4 lated basis for dental and oral health services fur-
 5 nished with respect to an individual enrolled under
 6 this part in the same manner as such provisions
 7 apply with respect to a physician's service.

8 “(6) ESTABLISHMENT OF DENTAL ADMINIS-
 9 TRATOR.—The Secretary shall designate 1 or more
 10 (not to exceed 4) medicare administrative contrac-
 11 tors under section 1874A to establish coverage poli-
 12 cies and establish such policies and process claims
 13 for payment for dental and oral health services, as
 14 determined appropriate by the Secretary.”.

15 (d) INCLUSION OF ORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
 16 AS CERTAIN PRACTITIONERS.—Section 1842(b)(18)(C) of
 17 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(18)(C)) is
 18 amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

19 “(ix) With respect to 2028 and each subsequent
 20 year, an oral health professional (as defined in sec-
 21 tion 1861(nnn)(3)).”.

22 (e) EXCLUSION MODIFICATIONS.—Section 1862(a)
 23 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(a)) is amend-
 24 ed—

25 (1) in paragraph (1)—

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

3 (B) in subparagraph (P), by striking the
4 semicolon at the end and inserting “, and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following new
6 subparagraph:

7 “(Q) in the case of dental and oral health serv-
8 ices (as defined in section 1861(nnn)) for which a
9 limitation is applicable under section 1834(aa)(3),
10 which are furnished more frequently than is pro-
11 vided under such section;”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (12), by inserting before the
13 semicolon at the end the following: “and except that
14 payment shall be made under part B for dental and
15 oral health services that are covered under section
16 1861(s)(2)(KK)”.

17 (f) INCLUSION AS EXCEPTED MEDICAL TREAT-
18 MENT.—Section 1821(b)(5)(A) of the Social Security Act
19 (42 U.S.C. 1395i–5(b)(5)(A)) is amended—

20 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “or” at the end;

21 (2) in clause (iii), by striking the period and in-
22 serting “, or”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following new
24 clause:

1 “(iv) consisting of dental and oral
 2 health services (as defined in subsection
 3 (mmm) of section 1861) that are payable
 4 under part B as a result of the amend-
 5 ments made by the Medicare Dental, Hear-
 6 ing, and Vision Expansion Act of 2025.”.

7 (g) RURAL HEALTH CLINICS AND FEDERALLY
 8 QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.—

9 (1) COVERAGE OF DENTAL AND ORAL HEALTH
 10 SERVICES.—Section 1861(aa) of the Social Security
 11 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)), is amended—

12 (A) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
 14 “and” at the end;

15 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
 16 “and” after the comma at the end; and

17 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
 18 (D) the following new subparagraph:

19 “(E) dental and oral health services (as de-
 20 fined in subsection (nnn)) furnished by a doctor
 21 of dental surgery or of dental medicine (as de-
 22 scribed in subsection (r)(2)) or an oral health
 23 professional (as defined in subsection (nnn)(3))
 24 who is employed by or working under contract

1 with a rural health clinic if such rural health
 2 clinic furnishes such services,”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “(D)”
 4 and inserting “(E)”.

5 (2) TEMPORARY PAYMENT RATES FOR CERTAIN
 6 SERVICES UNDER THE RHC AIR AND FQHC PPS.—

7 (A) AIR.—Section 1833 of the Social Se-
 8 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l) is amended—

9 (i) in subsection (a)(3)(A), by insert-
 10 ing “(which shall, in the case of dental and
 11 oral health services (as defined in section
 12 1861(nnn)), in lieu of any limits on rea-
 13 sonable costs otherwise applicable, be
 14 based on the rates payable for such serv-
 15 ices under the payment basis determined
 16 under section 1848 until such time as the
 17 Secretary determines sufficient data has
 18 been collected to otherwise apply such lim-
 19 its (or January 1, 2031, if no such deter-
 20 mination has been made as of such date))”
 21 after “may prescribe in regulations”; and

22 (ii) by adding at the end the following
 23 new subsection:

24 “(ee) DISREGARD OF COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO CER-
 25 TAIN SERVICES FROM CALCULATION OF RHC AIR.—

1 Payments for rural health clinic services other than dental
 2 and oral health services (as defined in section 1861(nnn))
 3 under the methodology for all-inclusive rates (established
 4 by the Secretary) under subsection (a)(3) shall not take
 5 into account the costs of such services while rates for such
 6 services are based on rates payable for such services under
 7 the payment basis established under section 1848.”.

8 (B) PPS.—Section 1834(o) of the Social
 9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(o)) is amended
 10 by adding at the end the following new para-
 11 graph:

12 “(6) TEMPORARY PAYMENT RATES BASED ON
 13 PFS FOR CERTAIN SERVICES.—The Secretary shall,
 14 in establishing payment rates for dental and oral
 15 health services (as defined in section 1861(nnn))
 16 that are Federally qualified health center services
 17 under the prospective payment system established
 18 under this subsection, in lieu of the rates otherwise
 19 applicable under such system, base such rates on
 20 rates payable for such services under the payment
 21 basis established under section 1848 until such time
 22 as the Secretary determines sufficient data has been
 23 collected to otherwise establish rates for such serv-
 24 ices under such system (or January 1, 2031, if no
 25 such determination has been made as of such date).

1 Payments for Federally qualified health center serv-
 2 ices other than such dental and oral health services
 3 under such system shall not take into account the
 4 costs of such services while rates for such services
 5 are based on rates payable for such services under
 6 the payment basis established under section 1848.”.

7 (h) IMPLEMENTATION.—In addition to amounts oth-
 8 erwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of
 9 Health and Human Services for fiscal year 2025, out of
 10 any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
 11 \$900,000,000, to remain available until expended, for pur-
 12 poses of implementing the amendments made by this sec-
 13 tion during the period beginning on January 1, 2025, and
 14 ending on September 30, 2034.

15 **SEC. 3. PROVIDING COVERAGE FOR HEARING CARE UNDER**
 16 **THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.**

17 (a) PROVISION OF AUDIOLOGY SERVICES BY QUALI-
 18 FIED AUDIOLOGISTS AND HEARING AID EXAMINATION
 19 SERVICES BY QUALIFIED HEARING AID PROFES-
 20 SIONALS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(ll) of the So-
 22 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(ll)) is amend-
 23 ed—

24 (A) in paragraph (3)—

25 (i) by inserting “(A)” after “(3)”;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (A), as added by
2 clause (i) of this subparagraph—

3 (I) by striking “means such hear-
4 ing and balance assessment services”
5 and inserting “means—

6 “(i) such hearing and balance assess-
7 ment services and, beginning January 1,
8 2027, such hearing aid examination serv-
9 ices and treatment services (including
10 aural rehabilitation, vestibular rehabilita-
11 tion, and cerumen management)”;

12 (II) in clause (i), as added by
13 subclause (I) of this clause, by strik-
14 ing the period at the end and insert-
15 ing “; and”; and

16 (III) by adding at the end the
17 following new clause:

18 “(ii) beginning January 1, 2027, such
19 hearing aid examination services furnished
20 by a qualified hearing aid professional (as
21 defined in paragraph (4)(C)) as the profes-
22 sional is legally authorized to perform
23 under State law (or the State regulatory
24 mechanism provided by State law), as

would otherwise be covered if furnished by
a physician.”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) Beginning January 1, 2027, audiology services described in subparagraph (A)(i) shall be furnished without a requirement for an order from a physician or practitioner.”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) The term ‘qualified hearing aid professional’ means an individual who—

“(i) is licensed or registered as a hearing aid dispenser, hearing aid specialist, hearing instrument dispenser, or related professional by the State in which the individual furnishes such services; and

“(ii) is accredited by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences or meets such other requirements as the Secretary determines appropriate (including requirements relating to educational certifications or accreditations) taking into account any additional relevant requirements for hearing aid specialists,

1 hearing aid dispensers, and hearing instru-
 2 ment dispensers established by Medicare
 3 Advantage organizations under part C,
 4 State plans (or waivers of such plans)
 5 under title XIX, and group health plans
 6 and health insurance issuers (as such
 7 terms are defined in section 2791 of the
 8 Public Health Service Act).”.

9 (2) PAYMENT FOR QUALIFIED HEARING AID
 10 PROFESSIONALS.—Section 1833(a)(1) of the Social
 11 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)), as amended
 12 by section 2(c)(1), is amended—

13 (A) by striking “and” before “(II)”; and

14 (B) by inserting before the semicolon at
 15 the end the following: “and (JJ) with respect to
 16 hearing aid examination services (as described
 17 in paragraph (3)(A)(ii) of section 1861(l)) fur-
 18 nished by a qualified hearing aid professional
 19 (as defined in paragraph (4)(C) of such sec-
 20 tion), the amounts paid shall be equal to 80
 21 percent of the lesser of the actual charge for
 22 such services or 85 percent of the amount for
 23 such services determined under the payment
 24 basis determined under section 1848”.

1 (3) INCLUSION OF QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGISTS
 2 AND QUALIFIED HEARING AID PROFESSIONALS AS
 3 CERTAIN PRACTITIONERS TO RECEIVE PAYMENT ON
 4 AN ASSIGNMENT-RELATED BASIS.—

5 (A) QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGISTS.—Section
 6 1842(b)(18)(C) of the Social Security Act (42
 7 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(18)(C)), as amended by sec-
 8 tion 2(d), is amended by adding at the end the
 9 following new clause:

10 “(x) Beginning on January 1, 2027, a qualified
 11 audiologist (as defined in section 1861(l)(4)(B)).”.

12 (B) QUALIFIED HEARING AID PROFES-
 13 SIONALS.—Section 1842(b)(18) of the Social
 14 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(18)) is
 15 amended—

16 (i) in each of subparagraphs (A) and
 17 (B), by striking “subparagraph (C)” and
 18 inserting “subparagraph (C) or, beginning
 19 on January 1, 2027, subparagraph (E)”;
 20 and

21 (ii) by adding at the end the following
 22 new subparagraph:

23 “(E) A practitioner described in this subparagraph
 24 is a qualified hearing aid professional (as defined in sec-
 25 tion 1861(l)(4)(C)).”.

1 (b) COVERAGE OF HEARING AIDS.—

2 (1) INCLUSION OF HEARING AIDS AS PROS-
 3 THETIC DEVICES.—Section 1861(s)(8) of the Social
 4 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(8)) is amended by
 5 inserting “, and including hearing aids (as described
 6 in section 1834(h)(7)) furnished on or after January
 7 1, 2027, to individuals with moderately severe, se-
 8 vere, or profound hearing loss” before the semicolon
 9 at the end.

10 (2) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS FOR HEARING
 11 AIDS.—Section 1834(h) of the Social Security Act
 12 (42 U.S.C. 1395m(h)) is amended by adding at the
 13 end the following new paragraphs:

14 “(6) PAYMENT ONLY ON AN ASSIGNMENT-RE-
 15 LATED BASIS.—Payment for hearing aids for which
 16 payment may be made under this part may be made
 17 only on an assignment-related basis. The provisions
 18 of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section
 19 1842(b)(18) shall apply to hearing aids in the same
 20 manner as they apply to services furnished by a
 21 practitioner described in subparagraph (C) of such
 22 section.

23 “(7) LIMITATIONS FOR HEARING AIDS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Payment may be
 25 made under this part with respect to an indi-

vidual, with respect to hearing aids furnished
by a qualified hearing aid supplier (as defined
in subparagraph (C)) on or after January 1,
2027—

“(i) not more than once per ear during a 5-year period;

“(ii) only for types of such hearing aids that are determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

“(iii) only if furnished pursuant to a written order of a physician, qualified audiologist (as defined in section 1861(ll)(4)), qualified hearing aid professional (as defined in subparagraph (C) of such section), physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist.

“(B) SPECIAL RULE.—The payment basis determined under this subsection (including after application of paragraph (1)(H), relating to application of competitive acquisition) for hearing aids furnished by a qualified hearing aid supplier on or after January 1, 2027, shall not exceed the rate determined for such hearing aids under the Federal Supply Schedule of the General Services Administration, as published

by such Administration in 2021, updated to the year involved using the applicable percent increase for the year.

“(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(i) HEARING AID.—The term ‘hearing aid’ means the item and related services including selection, fitting, adjustment, and patient education and training.

“(ii) QUALIFIED HEARING AID SUPPLIER.—The term ‘qualified hearing aid supplier’ means—

“(I) a qualified audiologist;

“(II) a physician (as defined in section 1861(r)(1));

“(III) a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist;

“(IV) a qualified hearing aid professional (as defined in section 1861(l)(4)(C)); and

“(V) other suppliers as determined by the Secretary.”.

(3) APPLICATION OF COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834(h)(1)(H)
 2 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 3 1395m(h)(1)(H)) is amended—

4 (i) in the header, by inserting “AND
 5 HEARING AIDS” after “ORTHOTICS”;

6 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i),
 7 by inserting “or of hearing aids described
 8 in paragraph (2)(D) of such section,” after
 9 “2011,”; and

10 (iii) in clause (i), by inserting “or
 11 such hearing aids” after “such orthotics”.

12 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

13 (i) IN GENERAL.—Section 1847(a)(2)
 14 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 15 1395w–3(a)(2)) is amended by adding at
 16 the end the following new subparagraph:

17 “(E) HEARING AIDS.—Hearing aids de-
 18 scribed in section 1861(s)(8) for which payment
 19 would otherwise be made under section
 20 1834(h).”.

21 (ii) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN ITEMS
 22 FROM COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION.—Sec-
 23 tion 1847(a)(7) of the Social Security Act
 24 (42 U.S.C. 1395w–3(a)(7)) is amended by

1 adding at the end the following new sub-
 2 paragraph:

3 “(C) CERTAIN HEARING AIDS.—Those
 4 items and services described in paragraph
 5 (2)(E) if furnished by a physician or other
 6 practitioner (as defined by the Secretary) to the
 7 physician’s or practitioner’s own patients as
 8 part of the physician’s or practitioner’s profes-
 9 sional service.”.

10 (iii) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section
 11 1847(a) of the Social Security Act (42
 12 U.S.C. 1395w–3(a)) is amended by adding
 13 at the end the following new paragraph:

14 “(8) COMPETITION WITH RESPECT TO HEARING
 15 AIDS.—Not later than January 1, 2031, the Sec-
 16 retary shall begin the competition with respect to the
 17 items and services described in paragraph (2)(E).”.

18 (4) PHYSICIAN SELF-REFERRAL LAW.—Section
 19 1877(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 20 1395nn(b)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 21 lowing new paragraph:

22 “(6) HEARING AIDS AND SERVICES.—In the
 23 case of hearing aid examination services and hearing
 24 aids—

1 “(A) furnished on or after January 1,
2 2027, and before January 1, 2029; and

3 “(B) furnished on or after January 1,
4 2029, if the financial relationship specified in
5 subsection (a)(2) meets such requirements the
6 Secretary imposes by regulation to protect
7 against program or patient abuse.”.

8 (c) EXCLUSION MODIFICATION.—Section 1862(a)(7)
9 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(a)(7)) is
10 amended by inserting “(except such hearing aids or exami-
11 nations therefor as described in and otherwise allowed
12 under section 1861(s)(8))” after “hearing aids or exami-
13 nations therefor”.

14 (d) INCLUSION AS EXCEPTED MEDICAL TREAT-
15 MENT.—Section 1821(b)(5)(A)(iv) of the Social Security
16 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–5(b)(5)(A)(iv)), as added by section
17 2(f), is amended by inserting “, audiology services de-
18 scribed in subsection (ll)(3) of such section, or hearing
19 aids described in subsection (s)(8) of such section” after
20 “section 1861)”.

21 (e) RURAL HEALTH CLINICS AND FEDERALLY
22 QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.—

23 (1) CLARIFYING COVERAGE OF AUDIOLOGY
24 SERVICES AS PHYSICIANS’ SERVICES.—Section
25 1861(aa)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42

U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting
“(including audiology services (as defined in sub-
section (ll)(3)))” after “physicians’ services”.

(2) INCLUSION OF QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGISTS
AND QUALIFIED HEARING AID PROFESSIONALS AS
RHC AND FQHC PRACTITIONERS.—Section
1861(aa)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42
U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting
“or by a qualified audiologist or a qualified hearing
aid professional (as such terms are defined in sub-
section (ll)),” after “(as defined in subsection
(hh)(1)),”.

(3) TEMPORARY PAYMENT RATES FOR CERTAIN
SERVICES UNDER THE RHC AIR AND FQHC PPS.—

(A) AIR.—Section 1833 of the Social Se-
curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l), as amended by
section 2(g)(2)(A), is amended—

(i) in subsection (a)(3)(A), by insert-
ing “or audiology services (as defined in
section 1861(ll)(3))” after “(as defined in
section 1861(nnn))”; and

(ii) in subsection (ee), by inserting “or
audiology services (as defined in section
1861(ll)(3))” after “(as defined in section
1861(nnn))”.

1 (B) PPS.—Section 1834(o)(6) of the So-
2 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(o)(6)), as
3 added by section 2(g)(2)(B), is amended—

4 (i) in the first sentence, by inserting
5 “or audiology services (as defined in sec-
6 tion 1861(ll)(3))” after “(as defined in sec-
7 tion 1861(nnn))”; and

8 (ii) in the second sentence, by insert-
9 ing “or such audiology services” after
10 “such dental and oral health services”.

11 (f) EXPEDITING IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary
12 of Health and Human Services shall implement this sec-
13 tion for 2027 and 2028 through program instruction or
14 other forms of program guidance.

15 (g) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise
16 available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Health
17 and Human Services for fiscal year 2025, out of any
18 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
19 \$370,000,000, to remain available until expended, for pur-
20 poses of implementing the amendments made by this sec-
21 tion during the period beginning on January 1, 2026, and
22 ending on September 30, 2035.

1 **SEC. 4. PROVIDING COVERAGE FOR VISION CARE UNDER**
 2 **THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.**

3 (a) COVERAGE.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social Se-
 4 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)), as amended by section
 5 2(a), is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (JJ), by striking “and”
 7 after the semicolon at the end;

8 (2) in subparagraph (KK), by striking the pe-
 9 riod at the end and adding “; and”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 11 paragraph:

12 “(LL) vision services (as defined in subsection
 13 (ooo));”.

14 (b) VISION SERVICES DEFINED.—Section 1861 of
 15 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x), as amended
 16 by section 2(b), is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 17 lowing new subsection:

18 “(ooo) VISION SERVICES.—The term ‘vision services’
 19 means routine eye examinations to determine the refrac-
 20 tive state of the eyes, including procedures performed dur-
 21 ing the course of such examination, furnished on or after
 22 January 1, 2027, by or under the direct supervision of
 23 an ophthalmologist or optometrist who is legally author-
 24 ized to furnish such examinations or procedures (as appli-
 25 cable) under State law (or the State regulatory mechanism

1 provided by State law) of the State in which the examina-
 2 tions or procedures are furnished.”.

3 (c) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—Section 1834 of the
 4 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m), as amended by
 5 section 2(c)(2), is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 6 lowing new subsection:

7 “(bb) LIMITATION FOR VISION SERVICES.—With re-
 8 spect to vision services (as defined in section 1861(ooo))
 9 and an individual, payment shall be made under this part
 10 for only 1 routine eye examination described in such sub-
 11 section during a 2-year period.”.

12 (d) PAYMENT UNDER PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE.—
 13 Section 1848(j)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 14 1395w–4(j)(3)) is amended by inserting “(2)(LL),” before
 15 “(3)”.

16 (e) COVERAGE OF CONVENTIONAL EYEGLASSES.—
 17 Section 1861(s)(8) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 18 1395x(s)(8)), as amended by section 3(b)(1), is amended
 19 by striking “, and including one pair of conventional eye-
 20 glasses or contact lenses furnished subsequent to each cat-
 21 aract surgery with insertion of an intraocular lens” and
 22 inserting “, including 1 pair of conventional eyeglasses or
 23 contact lenses furnished subsequent to each cataract sur-
 24 gery with insertion of an intraocular lens, if furnished be-
 25 fore January 1, 2027, and including conventional eye-

1 glasses (as described in section 1834(h)(8)), whether or
 2 not furnished subsequent to such a surgery, if furnished
 3 on or after January 1, 2027”.

4 (f) SPECIAL PAYMENT RULES FOR EYEGLASSES.—

5 (1) LIMITATIONS.—Section 1834(h) of the So-
 6 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(h)), as amended
 7 by section 3(b)(2), is amended by adding at the end
 8 the following new paragraph:

9 “(8) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS FOR EYE-
 10 GLASSES.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to con-
 12 ventional eyeglasses furnished to an individual
 13 on or after January 1, 2027, subject to sub-
 14 paragraph (B), payment shall be made under
 15 this part only during a 2-year period, for 1 pair
 16 of eyeglasses (including lenses and the frame).

17 “(B) EXCEPTION.—With respect to a 2-
 18 year period described in subparagraph (A), in
 19 the case of an individual who receives cataract
 20 surgery with insertion of an intraocular lens,
 21 payment shall be made under this part for 1
 22 pair of conventional eyeglasses furnished subse-
 23 quent to such cataract surgery during such pe-
 24 riod.

“(C) SPECIAL RULE.—The payment basis determined under this subsection (including after application of paragraph (1)(H), relating to application of competitive acquisition) for conventional eyeglasses furnished to an individual on or after January 1, 2027, shall not exceed the rate determined for such eyeglasses under the Federal Supply Schedule of the General Services Administration, as published by such Administration in 2021, updated to the year involved using the applicable percent increase for the year.

“(D) NO COVERAGE OF CERTAIN ITEMS.—Payment shall not be made under this part for deluxe eyeglasses or conventional reading glasses.”.

(2) APPLICATION OF COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834(h)(1)(H) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(h)(1)(H)), as amended by section 3(b)(3)(A), is amended—

(i) in the heading, by striking “AND HEARING AIDS” and inserting “HEARING AIDS, AND EYEGLASSES”;

1 (ii) in the matter preceding clause

2 (i)—

3 (I) by striking “or of hearing
4 aids” and inserting “of hearing aids”;
5 and

6 (II) by inserting “or of eyeglasses
7 described in paragraph (2)(E) of such
8 section,” after “paragraph (2)(D) of
9 such section,”; and

10 (iii) in clause (i), by striking “or such
11 hearing aids” and inserting “, such hear-
12 ing aids, or such eyeglasses”.

13 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
14 1847(a)(2) of the Social Security Act (42
15 U.S.C. 1395w–3(a)(2)), as amended by section
16 3(b)(3)(B)(i), is amended by adding at the end
17 the following new subparagraph:

18 “(F) EYEGLASSES.—Eyeglasses described
19 in section 1861(s)(8) for which payment would
20 otherwise be made under section 1834(h).”.

21 (C) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 1847(a)
22 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–
23 3(a)), as amended by section 3(b)(3)(B)(iii), is
24 amended by adding at the end the following
25 new paragraph:

1 “(9) COMPETITION WITH RESPECT TO EYE-
 2 GLASSES.—Not later than January 1, 2030, the Sec-
 3 retary shall begin the competition with respect to the
 4 items and services described in paragraph (2)(F).”.

5 (g) EXCLUSION MODIFICATIONS.—Section 1862(a)
 6 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(a)), as
 7 amended by section 2(e), is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (P), by striking
 10 “and” at the end;

11 (B) in subparagraph (Q), by striking the
 12 semicolon at the end and inserting “, and”; and

13 (C) by adding at the end the following new
 14 subparagraph:

15 “(R) in the case of vision services (as defined
 16 in section 1861(ooo)) that are routine eye examina-
 17 tions as described in such section, which are fur-
 18 nished more frequently than once during a 2-year
 19 period;”;

20 (2) in paragraph (7)—

21 (A) by inserting “(other than such an ex-
 22 amination that is a vision service that is cov-
 23 ered under section 1861(s)(2)(LL))” after “eye
 24 examinations”; and

1 (B) by inserting “(other than such a proce-
 2 dure that is a vision service that is covered
 3 under section 1861(s)(2)(LL))” after “refrac-
 4 tive state of the eyes”.

5 (h) INCLUSION AS EXCEPTED MEDICAL TREAT-
 6 MENT.—Section 1821(b)(5)(A)(iv) of the Social Security
 7 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–5(b)(5)(A)(iv)), as added by section
 8 2(f) and amended by section 3(d), is amended—

9 (1) by striking “or hearing aids” and inserting
 10 “hearing aids”; and

11 (2) by inserting “, or vision services (as defined
 12 in subsection (ooo) of such section)” after “sub-
 13 section (s)(8) of such section”.

14 (i) RURAL HEALTH CLINICS AND FEDERALLY
 15 QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.—

16 (1) CLARIFYING COVERAGE OF VISION SERV-
 17 ICES AS PHYSICIANS’ SERVICES.—Section
 18 1861(aa)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42
 19 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(1)(A)), as amended by section
 20 3(e)(1), is amended by inserting “and vision services
 21 (as defined in subsection (ooo))” after “(as defined
 22 in subsection (ll)(3))”.

23 (2) TEMPORARY PAYMENT RATES FOR CERTAIN
 24 SERVICES UNDER THE RHC AIR AND FQHC PPS.—

(A) AIR.—Section 1833 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l), as amended by sections 2(g)(2)(A) and 3(e)(3)(A), is amended—

(i) in subsection (a)(3)(A)—

(I) by striking “or audiology” and inserting “, audiology”; and

(II) by inserting “, or vision services (as defined in section 1861(ooo))” after “(as defined in section 1861(ll)(3))”; and

(ii) in subsection (ee)—

(I) by striking “or audiology” and inserting “, audiology”; and

(II) by inserting “, or vision services (as defined in section 1861(ooo))” after “(as defined in section 1861(ll)(3))”.

(B) PPS.—Section 1834(o)(6) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(o)(6)), as added by section 2(g)(2)(B) and amended by section 3(e)(3)(B), is amended—

(i) in the first sentence—

(I) by striking “or audiology” and inserting “, audiology”; and

1 (II) by inserting “, or vision serv-
 2 ices (as defined in section 1861(ooo))”
 3 after “(as defined in section
 4 1861(ll)(3))”; and
 5 (ii) in the second sentence, by striking
 6 “or such audiology services” and inserting
 7 “, such audiology services, or such vision
 8 services”.

9 (j) EXPEDITING IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary
 10 of Health and Human Services shall implement this sec-
 11 tion for 2027 and 2028 through program instruction or
 12 other forms of program guidance.

13 (k) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise
 14 available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Health
 15 and Human Services for fiscal year 2025, out of any
 16 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
 17 \$500,000,000, to remain available until expended, for pur-
 18 poses of implementing the amendments made by this sec-
 19 tion during the period beginning on January 1, 2026, and
 20 ending on September 30, 2034.

21 **SEC. 5. PHASE-IN OF IMPACT OF DENTAL AND ORAL**
 22 **HEALTH COVERAGE ON PART B PREMIUMS.**

23 Section 1839(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 24 1395r(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in the second sentence of paragraph (1), by
2 striking “and (7)” and inserting “(7), and (8)”;

3 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “The Sec-
4 retary” and inserting “Subject to paragraph (8)(C),
5 the Secretary”; and

6 (3) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(8) SPECIAL RULE FOR 2026 THROUGH 2030.—

8 “(A) DETERMINATION OF ALTERNATIVE
9 MONTHLY ACTUARIAL RATE FOR EACH OF 2026
10 THROUGH 2030.—For each of 2026 through
11 2030, the Secretary shall, at the same time as
12 and in addition to the determination of the
13 monthly actuarial rate for enrollees age 65 and
14 over determined in each of 2025 through 2029
15 for the succeeding calendar year according to
16 paragraph (1), determine an alternative month-
17 ly actuarial rate for enrollees age 65 and over
18 for the year as described in subparagraph (B).

19 “(B) ALTERNATIVE MONTHLY ACTUARIAL
20 RATE DESCRIBED.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The alternative
22 monthly actuarial rate described in this
23 subparagraph is—

24 “(I) for 2026 and 2027, the
25 monthly actuarial rate for enrollees

age 65 and over for the year, determined as if the amendments made by section 2 of the Medicare Dental, Hearing, and Vision Expansion Act of 2025 did not apply; and

“(II) for 2028, 2029, and 2030, the monthly actuarial rate for enrollees age 65 and over for the year, determined as if the amendments made by such section 2 did not apply, plus the applicable percent of the amount by which—

“(aa) the monthly actuarial rate for enrollees age 65 and over for the year determined according to paragraph (1); exceeds

“(bb) the monthly actuarial rate for enrollees age 65 and over for the year, determined as if the amendments made by such section 2 did not apply.

“(ii) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE PERCENT.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘applicable percent’ means—

1 “(I) for 2028, 25 percent;

2 “(II) for 2029, 50 percent; and

3 “(III) for 2030, 75 percent.

4 “(C) APPLICATION TO PART B PREMIUM
5 AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS PART.—For
6 each of 2026 through 2030, the Secretary shall
7 use the alternative monthly actuarial rate for
8 enrollees age 65 and over for the year deter-
9 mined under subparagraph (A), in lieu of the
10 monthly actuarial rate for such enrollees for the
11 year determined according to paragraph (1),
12 when determining the monthly premium rate
13 for the year under paragraph (3) and sub-
14 section (j), the part B deductible under section
15 1833(b), and the premium subsidy and monthly
16 adjustment amount under subsection (i).”.

○