

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 415

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for direct access to audiologists for Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2005

Mr. RYUN of Kansas (for himself, Mr. COOPER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. WALSH, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. ALLEN) 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 provide for direct access to audiologists for Medicare beneficiaries, 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 “Hearing Health Acces-  
5       sibility Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. DIRECT ACCESS TO QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGISTS FOR**  
 2 **MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES.**

3 Section 1861(ll)(2) of the Social Security Act (42  
 4 U.S.C. 1395x(ll)(2)) is amended by inserting before the  
 5 period at the end the following: “, without regard to any  
 6 requirement that the individual receiving the audiology  
 7 services be under the care of (or referred by) a physician  
 8 or other health care practitioner or that such services are  
 9 provided under the supervision of a physician or other  
 10 health care practitioner”.

11 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF AUDIOLOGY SERVICES AS A PART B**  
 12 **MEDICAL SERVICE; PAYMENT.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social  
 14 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)) is amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (Y), by striking “and” at  
 16 the end;

17 (2) in subparagraph (Z), by inserting “and” at  
 18 the end; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
 20 paragraph:

21 “(AA) audiology services (as defined in sub-  
 22 section (ll)(2));”.

23 (b) PAYMENT UNDER THE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHED-  
 24 ULE.—Section 1848(j)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-  
 25 4(j)(3)) is amended by inserting “(2)(AA),” after  
 26 “(2)(W),”.

1 **SEC. 4. CONSTRUCTION; EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 (a) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be  
3 construed to expand the scope of audiology services for  
4 which payment may be made under title XVIII of the So-  
5 cial Security Act on December 31, 2005.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
7 this Act shall take effect with respect to services furnished  
8 on or after January 1, 2006.

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