

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 483

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2011

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. BINGAMAN) 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 provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services 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 Mental  
5 Health Access Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS AS PHY-**  
2 **SICIANS FOR PURPOSES OF FURNISHING**  
3 **CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The first sentence of section  
5 1861(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(r))  
6 is amended—

- 7 (1) by striking “or” before “(5)”; and  
8 (2) by inserting before the period the following:  
9 “, or (6) a clinical psychologist, but only with re-  
10 spect to the furnishing of qualified psychologist serv-  
11 ices described in subsection (ii) for which the psy-  
12 chologist is legally authorized to perform by the  
13 State and who is acting within the scope of the psy-  
14 chologist’s license (or other authorization under  
15 State law)”.

16 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by  
17 subsection (a) shall apply to items and services furnished  
18 on or after January 1, 2012.

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