

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2348

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2014

Mr. BROWN 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 waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

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 “Removing Barriers to
5 Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause
2 of cancer death among men and women in the
3 United States, killing more non-smokers than any
4 other cancer.

5 (2) Every year, approximately 140,000 Ameri-
6 cans are diagnosed with colorectal cancer and more
7 than 50,000 Americans will die from it.

8 (3) Approximately 60 percent of colorectal can-
9 cer cases and 70 percent of deaths occur in those
10 aged 65 and older.

11 (4) Colorectal cancer screening colonoscopy al-
12 lows for the detection and removal of polyps, or ab-
13 normal growths, that could become cancerous, as
14 well as for the early detection of colorectal cancer
15 when treatment can be most effective.

16 (5) Although colorectal cancer is largely pre-
17 ventable, one in three adults between the rec-
18 ommended screening ages of 50 and 75 are not up
19 to date with colorectal cancer screening.

20 (6) Dozens of organizations have committed to
21 eliminating colorectal cancer as a major public
22 health problem and are working toward the shared
23 goal of reaching 80 percent screened for colorectal
24 cancer by 2018.

1 (7) Colorectal cancer screening colonoscopy is a
 2 highly effective preventive service, and removing fi-
 3 nancial barriers can help to increase screening rates.

4 **SEC. 3. WAIVING MEDICARE COINSURANCE FOR**
 5 **COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING TESTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(a)(1)(Y) of the So-
 7 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)(Y)) is amended
 8 by inserting “, including a colorectal cancer screening test
 9 (regardless of the code that is billed for the establishment
 10 of a diagnosis as a result of the test, or for the removal
 11 of tissue or other procedure that is furnished in connection
 12 with, as a result of, and in the same clinical encounter
 13 as the screening test),” after “section 1861(ddd)(3)”.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 15 subsection (a) shall apply to items and services furnished
 16 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

○