

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2208

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen and protect Medicare hospice programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 2015

Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen and protect Medicare hospice programs.

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 “Hospice Commitment
5 to Accurate and Relevant Encounters Act” or the “Hos-
6 pice CARE”.

7 **SEC. 2. ENSURING TIMELY ACCESS TO HOSPICE CARE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1814(a)(7)(D)(i) of the
9 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(a)(7)(D)(i)) is
10 amended to read as follows:

“(i) a hospice physician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant (as those terms are defined in section 1861(aa)(5)), or other health professional (as designated by the Secretary), has a face-to-face encounter with the individual to determine continued eligibility of the individual for hospice care prior to the first 60-day period and each subsequent recertification under subparagraph (A)(ii) (or, in the case where a hospice program newly admits an individual who would be entering their first 60-day period or a subsequent hospice benefit period or where exceptional circumstances, as defined by the Secretary, may prevent a face-to-face encounter prior to the beginning of the hospice benefit period, not later than 7 calendar days after the individual’s election under section 1812(d)(1) with respect to the hospice program) and attests that such visit took place (in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary); and”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
2 subsection (a) takes effect on January 1, 2016, and ap-
3 plies to hospice care furnished on or after such date.

○