

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1456

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the way beneficiaries are assigned under the Medicare shared savings program by also basing such assignment on primary care services furnished by Federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical nurse specialists.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2015

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. THUNE, and Mrs. MURRAY) 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 improve the way beneficiaries are assigned under the Medicare shared savings program by also basing such assignment on primary care services furnished by Federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical nurse specialists.

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 “Rural ACO Improve-
5 ment Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF BENE-**
 2 **FICIARIES UNDER THE MEDICARE SHARED**
 3 **SAVINGS PROGRAM.**

4 Section 1899(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 5 1395j(j)(c)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “utilization of primary” and in-
 7 serting “utilization of—

8 “(1) in the case of performance years beginning
 9 on or after April 1, 2012, primary”;

10 (2) in paragraph (1), as added by paragraph
 11 (1) of this section, by striking the period at the end
 12 and inserting a semicolon; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following new
 14 paragraphs:

15 “(2) in the case of performance years beginning
 16 on or after January 1, 2016, primary care services
 17 provided under this title by an ACO professional de-
 18 scribed in subsection (h)(1)(B); and

19 “(3) in the case of performance years beginning
 20 on or after January 1, 2016, primary care services
 21 provided under this title by a Federally qualified
 22 health center or rural health clinic (as those terms
 23 are defined in section 1861(aa)), as determined by
 24 the Secretary.”.

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