

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2597

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25, 2016

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) 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 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) APPLICATION OF MEANINGFUL USE PAYMENTS
 17 TO CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS.—For purposes of section
 18 1848(a)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-
 19 4(a)(7)), for 2017 and 2018, with respect to clinical psy-
 20 chologists, the term “applicable percent” means 100 per-
 21 cent.

22 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 23 subsection (a) shall apply to items and services furnished
 24 on or after January 1, 2017.

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