

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3457

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an evaluation on the extent to which the Medicare and Medicaid programs provide reasonable accommodations to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2017

Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Ms. ESHOO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an evaluation on the extent to which the Medicare and Medicaid programs provide reasonable accommodations to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

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. GAO STUDY ON MEDICARE AND MEDICAID PRO-**
4 **GRAMS.**

5 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United

1 States shall conduct an evaluation, and submit to Con-
2 gress a report, on the extent to which reasonable accom-
3 modations, as required under Federal law, are provided
4 under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the So-
5 cial Security Act and the Medicaid program under title
6 XIX of such Act to individuals who are blind or visually
7 impaired. Such evaluation and report shall include infor-
8 mation on—

9 (1) an estimate of the number of Medicare
10 beneficiaries and the number of Medicaid enrollees
11 who are blind or visually impaired or would self-
12 identify as such using available data, such as the
13 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National
14 Health Interview Survey or Medicare/Medicaid ICD
15 codes or Census data or other data sources;

16 (2) how the Medicare and Medicaid programs
17 inform blind or visually impaired individuals that in-
18 formation can be available in other formats;

19 (3) the number of complaints submitted to the
20 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services or State
21 Medicaid agencies claiming materials are not being
22 provided in an accessible format and whether such
23 a failure to provide such materials in such a format
24 resulted in—

1 (A) an interruption in coverage or denial in
2 care; or

3 (B) the failure to appeal such a denial be-
4 fore the specified deadline (and the number of
5 times such a deadline had been extended);

6 (4) how the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
7 Services and State Medicaid agencies identify Medi-
8 care beneficiaries and Medicaid beneficiaries who are
9 blind or visually impaired or who self-identify as
10 such; and

11 (5) the accommodations that the Medicare and
12 Medicaid programs make to ensure communications,
13 including written materials, are accessible for the
14 blind, visually impaired, or individuals who self-iden-
15 tify as such, and how individuals are informed of
16 these options.

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