

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 479

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

MARCH 1, 2017

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, 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 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 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Colorectal cancer is the second leading
2 cause of cancer death among men and women com-
3 bined in the United States.

4 (2) In 2017, more than 135,000 Americans will
5 be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and approxi-
6 mately 50,000 Americans will die from it.

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

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

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

19 (6) Over 1,000 organizations have committed to
20 eliminating colorectal cancer as a major public
21 health problem and are working toward the shared
22 goal of reaching 80 percent screened for colorectal
23 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 this section shall apply to items and services furnished
 16 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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