

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1936

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect coverage for screening mammography, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 20, 2019

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. STABENOW) 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 protect coverage for screening mammography, and for other purposes.

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 “Protecting Access to
5 Lifesaving Screenings Act of 2019” or the “PALS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROTECTING COVERAGE FOR SCREENING MAM-**
 2 **MOGRAPHY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective during the period begin-
 4 ning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending
 5 January 1, 2025, any provision of law that refers (includ-
 6 ing through cross-reference to another provision of law)
 7 to the current recommendations of the United States Pre-
 8 ventive Services Task Force with respect to breast cancer
 9 screening mammography shall be administered as if—

10 (1) such reference to such current recommenda-
 11 tions were a reference to the recommendations of
 12 such Task Force with respect to breast cancer
 13 screening mammography last issued before 2009;
 14 and

15 (2) such recommendations last issued before
 16 2009 applied to any screening mammography modal-
 17 ity under section 1861(jj) of the Social Security Act
 18 (42 U.S.C. 1395x(jj)).

19 (b) CONTINUING MEDICARE COVERAGE WITHOUT
 20 COINSURANCE.—Section 1833(a)(1)(Y) of the Social Se-
 21 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)(Y)) is amended by in-
 22 serting after “in the case of such services described in sub-
 23 paragraph (A)” the following: “(other than screening
 24 mammography)”.

25 (c) MAINTAINING FREQUENCY OF MEDICARE COV-
 26 ERAGE.—Section 1834(c)(2)(B)(ii) of the Social Security

1 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(c)(2)(B)(ii)) is amended by insert-
 2 ing before the period at the end the following: “, except
 3 that in the case of a woman over 39 years of age, such
 4 revision may not decrease such frequency”.

5 (d) CLARIFYING THE DEFINITION OF SCREENING
 6 MAMMOGRAPHY.—Section 1861(jj) of the Social Security
 7 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(jj)) is amended by inserting “, in-
 8 cluding any digital modality (such as screening breast
 9 tomosynthesis) of such a procedure,” after “radiologic
 10 procedure”.

11 (e) APPLICATION TO SERVICES FURNISHED
 12 THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Sec-
 13 tion 7322(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended
 14 to read as follows:

15 “(b) The policy developed under subsection (a), and
 16 any other policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs
 17 relating to mammography screening, shall—

18 “(1) specify standards of mammography screen-
 19 ing that ensure that the frequency of such
 20 screenings is not less than the frequency of such
 21 screenings provided pursuant to section 2(a) of the
 22 Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screenings Act of
 23 2019;

24 “(2) provide recommendations, consistent with
 25 paragraph (1), with respect to screening, and the

1 frequency of screening, for veterans, without regard
2 to age, who have clinical symptoms, risk factors, or
3 family history of breast cancer; and
4 “(3) provide for clinician discretion in indi-
5 vidual cases.”.

○