

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4343

To direct the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation or live with limb difference.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 28, 2020

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To direct the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation or live with limb difference.

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 “Access to Assistive
5 Technology and Devices for Americans Study Act” or the
6 “Triple A Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPROPRIATE COVERAGE OF ASSISTIVE TECH-**
2 **NOLOGIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
5 of the United States shall evaluate, and submit to Con-
6 gress a report on such evaluation, the appropriate cov-
7 erage, through insurance or otherwise, of assistive tech-
8 nologies provided to patients who experience amputation
9 or live with limb difference, particularly prosthetic devices
10 and custom orthoses, including—

11 (1) timely access to care, including educating
12 patients regarding options for assistive technologies;

13 (2) assessments and guidelines for assistive de-
14 vice determinations;

15 (3) matching specific assistive devices with the
16 needs of the individual beneficiary, such as women;

17 (4) the affordability of assistive devices;

18 (5) the provision of rehabilitation services to
19 support acclimation to assistive devices; and

20 (6) appropriate timelines for assessments for
21 surgery and assessments of assistive devices.

22 (b) COMPARISON OF CERTAIN DATA.—As part of the
23 evaluation conducted under subsection (a), the Comp-
24 troller General shall compare data on practices and out-
25 comes derived from the Medicare program under title
26 XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.),

1 the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the commercial
2 health insurance market relating to the coverage of assist-
3 ive technologies, including—

4 (1) the percentage of patients who get access to
5 assistive devices;

6 (2) performance measures that monitor the
7 timeliness of processing prosthetic prescriptions;

8 (3) coverage denials and overturn rates;

9 (4) coding for physician or physical therapy as-
10 sessments, including whether a prosthetist was en-
11 gaged in the assessment;

12 (5) the rate of patients returning to work in
13 general, and after receiving a prosthetic device com-
14 parable to other assistive technologies;

15 (6) reductions in long-term assistive technology
16 services and supports;

17 (7) with respect to those using assistive tech-
18 nologies, policies to reduce falls and secondary com-
19 plications, such as diabetes, heart disease, vascular
20 disease, and others; and

21 (8) the amount expended by individual entities
22 on prosthetics relative to total amount expended by
23 such entities.

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