

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4456

To amend the Public Health Service Act to permit health information technology systems to use the Postal Service tool to standardize formatting in electronic health records when entering patient information to improve match rates among patient records.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 2020

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

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to permit health information technology systems to use the Postal Service tool to standardize formatting in electronic health records when entering patient information to improve match rates among patient records.

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 “Patient Matching Im-
5 provement Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. USE OF USPS FORMATTING TOOL.**

2 Section 3001(c)(2) of the Public Health Service Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 300jj–11(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the
4 end the following:

5 “(C) USPS FORMATTING TOOL.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90
7 days after the date of enactment of this
8 subparagraph, the Secretary, acting
9 through the National Coordinator, shall
10 ensure that the United States Postal Serv-
11 ice electronic address formatting tools that
12 are made available by the United States
13 Postal Service to online retailers at no cost
14 are also made available to health care pro-
15 viders for use in health information tech-
16 nology systems at no cost. The Secretary
17 shall ensure that the electronic address for-
18 matting tools are made available to any
19 health care organization (including hos-
20 pitals, physician offices, electronic health
21 record vendors, State and local health de-
22 partments, registries, and other organiza-
23 tions as determined necessary by the Sec-
24 retary) to transform both single address
25 records and multiple, simultaneous address
26 records into the United States Postal Serv-

1 ice preferred address format. The Sec-
2 retary shall ensure that no limitations exist
3 on the number of records or health organi-
4 zations that use the electronic conversion
5 tool.

6 “(ii) COVID–19 LABORATORY TEST-
7 ING.—Not later than 90 days after the
8 date of enactment of this subparagraph,
9 the Secretary shall make available the
10 United States Postal Service address for-
11 matting tool for use by laboratories en-
12 gaged in COVID–19 testing to accompany
13 COVID–19 laboratory results.

14 “(iii) CERTIFICATION.—Not later
15 than 1 year after the date of enactment of
16 this subparagraph, the Secretary shall pro-
17 mulgate regulations to update the condi-
18 tions of certification for health information
19 technology to require the standardization
20 of addresses in the United States Postal
21 Service standard. The Secretary shall up-
22 date requirements under section 3022(a)
23 to include the United States Postal Service
24 format as the standard for addresses when
25 communicated through application pro-

1 gramming interfaces under this subpara-
2 graph.”.

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 To carry out the amendment made by this Act, there
5 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
6 necessary.

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