

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3834

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the scope of practitioners eligible for payment for telehealth services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

Mr. DAINES (for himself and Ms. SMITH) 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 expand the scope of practitioners eligible for payment for telehealth services under the Medicare program, 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 “Expanded Telehealth
5 Access Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF PRACTITIONERS ELIGI-**
 2 **BLE FOR PAYMENT FOR TELEHEALTH SERV-**
 3 **ICES UNDER MEDICARE.**

4 Section 1834(m) of the Social Security Act (42
 5 U.S.C. 1395m(m)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (2)(A)—

7 (A) by inserting “(or, in the case of an oc-
 8 cupational therapy assistant described in para-
 9 graph (4)(E)(ii)(II) or a physical therapist as-
 10 sistant described in paragraph (4)(E)(ii)(III),
 11 shall pay with respect to such assistant)” before
 12 “located at a distant site”; and

13 (B) by inserting “(or, in the case of an oc-
 14 cupational therapy assistant described in para-
 15 graph (4)(E)(ii)(II) or a physical therapist as-
 16 sistant described in paragraph (4)(E)(ii)(III),
 17 the amount that would have been paid under
 18 this title with respect to such assistant)” after
 19 “would have been paid under this title”;

20 (2) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “under
 21 such section” and inserting “described in subpara-
 22 graph (C) of such section”; and

23 (3) in paragraph (4), by striking subparagraph
 24 (E) and inserting the following:

25 “(E) PRACTITIONER.—The term ‘practi-
 26 tioner’ means any of the following:

1 “(i) A practitioner described in section
2 1842(b)(18)(C).

3 “(ii) With respect to services fur-
4 nished on or after the date of the enact-
5 ment of the Expanded Telehealth Access
6 Act—

7 “(I) a qualified audiologist (as
8 defined in section 1861(ll)(4)(B));

9 “(II) a qualified occupational
10 therapist and an occupational therapy
11 assistant under the supervision of a
12 qualified occupational therapist;

13 “(III) a qualified physical thera-
14 pist and a physical therapist assistant
15 under the supervision of a qualified
16 physical therapist;

17 “(IV) a qualified speech-language
18 pathologist (as defined in section
19 1861(ll)(4)(A));

20 “(V) a facility that furnishes
21 services described in paragraph (8) or
22 (9) of section 1833(a) through tele-
23 health; and

24 “(VI) any additional provider of
25 services or supplier, as specified by

1 the Secretary, who is enrolled under
2 section 1866(j) and furnishes a tele-
3 health service.”.

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