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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

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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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Expanded Telehealth Access Act''.

SEC. 2. EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF PRACTITIONERS ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT FOR TELEHEALTH SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE.

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

(1) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(A) by inserting ''(or, in the case of an occupational therapy assistant described in paragraph (4)(E)(ii)(II) or a physical therapist assistant described in paragraph (4)(E)(ii)(III), shall pay with respect to such assistant)'' before ''located at a distant site''; and

(B) by inserting ''(or, in the case of an occupational therapy assistant described in paragraph (4)(E)(ii)(II) or a physical therapist assistant described in paragraph (4)(E)(ii)(III), the amount that would have been paid under this title with respect to such assistant)'' after ''would have been paid under this title'';

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking ''under such section'' and inserting ''described in subparagraph (C) of such section''; and

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

''(E) PRACTITIONER.—The term 'practitioner' means any of the following:

"(i) A practitioner described in section 1842(b)(18)(C).

"(ii) With respect to services furnished on or after the date of the enactment of the Expanded Telehealth Access Act—

"(I) a qualified audiologist (as defined in section 1861(ll)(4)(B));

"(II) a qualified occupational therapist and an occupational therapy assistant under the supervision of a qualified occupational therapist;

"(III) a qualified physical therapist and a physical therapist assistant under the supervision of a qualified physical therapist;

"(IV) a qualified speech-language pathologist (as defined in section 1861(ll)(4)(A));

"(V) a facility that furnishes services described in paragraph (8) or (9) of section 1833(a) through telehealth; and

"(VI) any additional provider of services or supplier, as specified by

the Secretary, who is enrolled under section 1866(j) and furnishes a telehealth service.''.

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