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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a 2-year demonstration program for hospitals to provide outpatient observation services to Medicare beneficiaries at home.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. CASTOR of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a 2-year demonstration program for hospitals to provide outpatient observation services to Medicare beneficiaries at home.

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 “At Home Observation
5 and Medical Evaluation Services Act of 2024” or the “At
6 HOME Services Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR HOSPITALS TO**
2 **PROVIDE OUTPATIENT OBSERVATION SERV-**
3 **ICES TO MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES AT**
4 **HOME.**

5 Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
6 1395 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1866G
7 the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 1866H. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR HOSPITALS**
9 **TO PROVIDE OUTPATIENT OBSERVATION**
10 **SERVICES AT HOME.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
12 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall im-
13 plement a 2-year demonstration program (in this section
14 referred to as the ‘Program’) for hospitals to provide out-
15 patient observation services to eligible beneficiaries in the
16 homes of such beneficiaries. In implementing such Pro-
17 gram, the Secretary shall grant waivers and flexibilities
18 (as described in subsection (b)) to an individual hospital
19 that submits a request for such waivers and flexibilities
20 and meets specified criteria (as described in subsection
21 (c)) in order to participate in the Program.

22 “(b) WAIVERS AND FLEXIBILITIES.—For the pur-
23 poses of subsection (a), the waivers and flexibilities de-
24 scribed in this paragraph are the following waivers and
25 flexibilities that were made available to individual hos-
26 pitals under the Acute Hospital Care at Home initiative

1 of the Secretary during the emergency period described
2 in section 1135(g)(1)(B):

3 “(1) Subject to subsection (c)(2), waiver of the
4 requirements to provide 24-hour nursing services on
5 premises and for the immediate availability of a reg-
6 istered nurse under section 482.23(b) of title 42,
7 Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regu-
8 lation), and the waivers of the physical environment
9 and Life Safety Code requirements under section
10 482.41 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or
11 any successor regulation).

12 “(2) Waiver of the telehealth requirements
13 under clause (i) of section 1834(m)(4)(C), as
14 amended by section 4113(a) of the Health Extend-
15 ers, Improving Access to Medicare, Medicaid, and
16 CHIP, and Strengthening Public Health Act of
17 2022, such that the originating sites described in
18 clause (ii) of such section shall include the home or
19 temporary residence of the individual.

20 “(3) Other waivers and flexibilities that, as of
21 the date of enactment of this section, were in place
22 for such initiative during such emergency period.

23 “(c) SPECIFIED CRITERIA.—For purposes of sub-
24 section (a), the specified criteria for granting such waivers
25 and flexibilities to individual hospitals are:

1 “(1) The hospital and any other entities pro-
2 viding services under arrangements with the hospital
3 shall ensure that the standard of care to treat an eli-
4 gible beneficiary at home is the same as the stand-
5 ard of care to treat such beneficiary as an inpatient
6 of the hospital.

7 “(2) The hospital shall meet all patient safety
8 standards determined appropriate by the Secretary,
9 in addition to those that otherwise apply to the hos-
10 pital, except those for which the waivers and flexi-
11 bilities under this subsection apply.

12 “(3) The hospital shall provide to the Secretary,
13 at a time, form and manner determined by the Sec-
14 retary, any data and information the Secretary de-
15 termines necessary to do the following:

16 “(A) Monitor the quality of care furnished,
17 and to the extent practicable ensure the safety
18 of, eligible beneficiaries and analyze costs of
19 such care.

20 “(B) Undertake the study described in
21 subsection (e).

22 “(4) The hospital meets such other require-
23 ments and conditions as the Secretary determines
24 appropriate.

1 “(d) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may terminate a
2 hospital from participation in the Program (and the waiv-
3 ers and flexibilities applicable to such hospital) if the Sec-
4 retary determines that the hospital no longer meets the
5 criteria described in subsection (c).

6 “(e) STUDY AND REPORT.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
8 duct a study to—

9 “(A) analyze, to the extent practicable, the
10 criteria established by hospitals to determine
11 which beneficiaries may be furnished services
12 under the Program; and

13 “(B) analyze and compare, to the extent
14 practicable—

15 “(i) the quality of care furnished to
16 beneficiaries with similar conditions and
17 characteristics in the hospital setting and
18 through the Program, including health out-
19 comes, hospital readmission rates, hospital
20 mortality rates, length of stay, infection
21 rates, and patient experience of care;

22 “(ii) clinical conditions treated and di-
23 agnosis-related groups of discharges from
24 the hospital setting and under the Pro-
25 gram;

1 “(iii) costs incurred by furnishing care
2 in the hospital setting and through the
3 Program;

4 “(iv) the quantity, mix and intensity
5 of such services (such as in-person visits
6 and virtual contacts with patients) fur-
7 nished under the Program and furnished
8 in the hospital setting; and

9 “(v) socioeconomic information on
10 beneficiaries treated under the Program,
11 including racial and ethnic data, income,
12 and whether such beneficiaries are dually
13 eligible for benefits under this title and
14 title XIX.

15 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
16 completion of the Program, the Secretary shall post
17 on a website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
18 Services a report on the study conducted under
19 paragraph (1).

20 “(f) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other
21 provision of law, the Secretary may implement this section
22 by program instruction or otherwise.

23 “(g) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—The
24 Secretary shall, as feasible, make the information collected

1 under subsections (c)(3) and (e)(1) available on the Medi-
2 care.gov Internet website (or a successor website).”.