

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3797

To amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to address liability for payment of charges or costs associated with provision of purchased/referred care services, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to address liability for payment of charges or costs associated with provision of purchased/referred care services, 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 “Purchased and Re-  
5 ferred Care Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CHANGES TO LIABILITY FOR PAYMENT.**

7 Section 222 of the Indian Health Care Improvement  
8 Act (25 U.S.C. 1621u) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by striking “A patient” and inserting  
3 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a  
4 patient”;

5 (B) by striking “contract health care” and  
6 inserting “purchased/referred care”; and

7 (C) by inserting “to any provider, third  
8 party debt collector, or any other person” after  
9 “shall not be liable”;

10 (2) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) by striking “contract care” each place  
12 it appears and inserting “purchased/referred  
13 care”;

14 (B) by striking “contract health care” and  
15 inserting “purchased/referred care”;

16 (C) by inserting “, notwithstanding any  
17 other provision of law,” after “by the Service  
18 that”; and

19 (D) by inserting “to any provider, third  
20 party debt collector, or any other person” after  
21 “is not liable”;

22 (3) in subsection (c), by inserting “, the third  
23 party debt collector, or any other person, as applica-  
24 ble” after “the provider”; and

25 (4) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(d) REIMBURSEMENT.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days  
3 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
4 Service shall establish and implement procedures to  
5 allow a patient that paid directly for purchased/re-  
6 ferred care services authorized by the Service under  
7 this Act to be reimbursed by the purchased/referred  
8 care program for that payment not later than 30  
9 days after the patient submits documentation to the  
10 Service pursuant to paragraph (2).

11 “(2) SUBMITTING DOCUMENTATION.—The  
12 Service shall accept documentation from a patient  
13 seeking reimbursement under paragraph (1) that  
14 was submitted—

15 “(A) electronically; or

16 “(B) in-person at a Indian health pro-  
17 gram.”.

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