

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1353

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase Federal support to State Medicaid programs during economic downturns, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Mrs. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. DEAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. CHU, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. WILD, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. RYAN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. PORTER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. BERA, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. RUIZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase Federal support to State Medicaid programs during economic downturns, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Coronavirus Medicaid
3 Response Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. INCREASING FEDERAL SUPPORT TO STATE MED-**
5 **ICAID PROGRAMS DURING ECONOMIC**
6 **DOWNTURNS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1905 of the Social Secu-
8 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “and (ff)” and
10 inserting “(ff), and (hh)”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 section:

13 “(hh) INCREASED FMAP DURING ECONOMIC
14 DOWNTURNS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If a fiscal quarter that be-
16 gins on or after January 1, 2020, is an economic
17 downturn quarter (as defined in paragraph (2)) with
18 respect to a State, then the Federal medical assist-
19 ance percentage determined for the State and quar-
20 ter under subsection (b) shall be equal to the per-
21 centage determined for the State and quarter under
22 paragraph (3).

23 “(2) ECONOMIC DOWNTURN QUARTER.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—

25 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In this subsection,
26 the term ‘economic downturn quarter’

1 means, with respect to a State, a fiscal
2 quarter during which the State's unem-
3 ployment rate for the quarter exceeds the
4 percentage determined for the State and
5 quarter under clause (ii).

6 “(ii) THRESHOLD PERCENTAGE.—The
7 percentage determined under this clause
8 for a State and fiscal quarter is the per-
9 centage equal to the lower of—

10 “(I) the State unemployment
11 rate at the 20th percentile of the dis-
12 tribution of the State's quarterly un-
13 employment rates for the 60-quarter
14 period preceding the quarter involved,
15 increased by 1 percentage point; and

16 “(II) the State's average quar-
17 terly unemployment rate for the 12-
18 quarter period preceding the quarter
19 involved, increased by 1 percentage
20 point.

21 “(B) UNEMPLOYMENT DATA.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
23 vided in clause (ii), for purposes of deter-
24 mining unemployment rates for a State
25 and a quarter under this paragraph, the

1 Secretary shall use data from the Local
2 Area Unemployment Statistics from the
3 Bureau of Labor Statistics.

4 “(ii) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN TER-
5 RITORIES.—In the case of the Virgin Is-
6 lands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Is-
7 lands, American Samoa, or any other juris-
8 diction for which suitable data from the
9 Local Area Unemployment Statistics from
10 the Bureau of Labor Statistics are unavail-
11 able, the Secretary shall use data from the
12 U–3 unemployment measure of the Bureau
13 of Labor Statistics to make any necessary
14 determinations under subparagraph (A).

15 “(3) INCREASED FMAP DURING ECONOMIC
16 DOWNTURN QUARTER.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—During a fiscal quar-
18 ter that is an economic downturn quarter with
19 respect to a State, the Federal medical assist-
20 ance percentage for the State and quarter de-
21 termined under subsection (b) shall be equal
22 to—

23 “(i) the Federal medical assistance
24 percentage determined for the State and
25 quarter under subsection (b) without re-

1 gard to this subsection (but including any
2 increase to such percentage for such quar-
3 ter made pursuant to section 6008(a) of
4 the Families First Coronavirus Response
5 Act); increased by

6 “(ii) the number of percentage points
7 (rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent-
8 age point) equal to the product of—

9 “(I) the number of percentage
10 points (rounded to the nearest tenth
11 of a percentage point) by which the
12 unemployment rate for the State and
13 quarter exceeds the percentage deter-
14 mined for the State and quarter
15 under paragraph (2)(A)(ii); and

16 “(II) 4.8.

17 “(B) RULES OF APPLICATION.—The fol-
18 lowing rules shall apply with respect to the Fed-
19 eral medical assistance percentage determined
20 for a State and an economic downturn quarter
21 under this subsection:

22 “(i) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—Such
23 Federal medical assistance percentage shall
24 not apply for purposes of—

1 “(I) disproportionate share hos-
2 pital payments described in section
3 1923;

4 “(II) payments under part D of
5 title IV; or

6 “(III) any payments under this
7 title that are based on a Federal med-
8 ical assistance percentage determined
9 for a State under subsection (aa) (but
10 only to the extent that such Federal
11 medical assistance percentage is high-
12 er than the economic recovery
13 FMAP).

14 “(ii) LIMITATION.—In no case shall—

15 “(I) the Federal medical assist-
16 ance percentage determined for a
17 State and quarter pursuant to this
18 subsection exceed 95 percent; or

19 “(II) any increase to the Federal
20 medical assistance percentage deter-
21 mined for a State and quarter pursu-
22 ant to this subsection result in the ap-
23 plication of a Federal medical assist-
24 ance percentage that exceeds 95 per-
25 cent.

1 “(iii) APPLICATION TO CHIP.—Not-
2 withstanding the first sentence of section
3 2105(b), the application of this subsection
4 may result in the enhanced FMAP of a
5 State for a fiscal year under such section
6 exceeding 85 percent, but in no case may
7 the application of this subsection before
8 application of the second sentence of such
9 section result in the enhanced FMAP of
10 the State exceeding 95 percent.

11 “(4) ADVANCE PAYMENT; RETROSPECTIVE AD-
12 JUSTMENT.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Prior to the beginning
14 of each fiscal quarter that begins on or after
15 July 1, 2020, the Secretary shall, with respect
16 to each State—

17 “(i) make an initial determination,
18 based on the projections made for the
19 State and quarter under subparagraph
20 (B), as to—

21 “(I) whether the application of
22 this subsection is expected to result in
23 the application of a higher Federal
24 medical assistance percentage for the
25 State and quarter than the percentage

1 that would otherwise apply without re-
2 gard to this subsection; and—

3 “(II) if the application of this
4 subsection is expected to result in
5 such a higher Federal medical assist-
6 ance percentage for the State and
7 quarter, what such higher percentage
8 is expected to be; and

9 “(ii) if the Secretary determines under
10 clause (i) that the application of this sub-
11 section is expected to result in the applica-
12 tion of a higher Federal medical assistance
13 percentage for the State and quarter than
14 the percentage that would otherwise apply
15 without regard to this subsection—

16 “(I) apply such higher Federal
17 medical assistance percentage of the
18 State for purposes of making pay-
19 ments to the State for amounts ex-
20 pended during such quarter as med-
21 ical assistance under the State plan;
22 and

23 “(II) take into account such
24 higher Federal medical assistance per-
25 centage of the State for purposes of

1 calculating the enhanced FMAP for
2 the State and quarter under section
3 2105(b).

4 “(B) PROJECTION OF STATE UNEMPLOY-
5 MENT RATES.—Prior to the beginning of each
6 fiscal quarter that begins on or after July 1,
7 2020, the Secretary, acting through the Chief
8 Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
9 Services, shall, using the most recently available
10 data described in paragraph (2)(B), make pro-
11 jections with respect to—

12 “(i) the unemployment rates for each
13 State for such quarter;

14 “(ii) the threshold percentages de-
15 scribed in paragraph (2)(A)(ii) for each
16 State for such quarter; and

17 “(iii) the national unemployment rate
18 for such quarter.

19 “(C) RETROSPECTIVE ADJUSTMENT.—As
20 soon as practicable after final unemployment
21 data becomes available for a fiscal quarter that
22 begins on or after July 1, 2020, the Secretary
23 shall, with respect to each State—

24 “(i) make a final determination with
25 respect to the application of this subsection

1 for purposes of determining the Federal
2 medical assistance percentage and en-
3 hanced FMAP of the State for the quarter;
4 and

5 “(ii) in accordance with section
6 1903(d)(2) and section 2105(e), reduce or
7 increase the amount payable to the State
8 under section 1903(a) or section 2105 for
9 a subsequent fiscal quarter to the extent of
10 any overpayment or underpayment under
11 either such section which the Secretary de-
12 termines was made as a result of an incor-
13 rect initial determination under subpara-
14 graph (A)(i) with respect to the application
15 of this subsection for purposes of deter-
16 mining the Federal medical assistance per-
17 centage and enhanced FMAP of the State
18 for such prior fiscal quarter.

19 “(5) RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION OF OVER-
20 THE-LIMIT FMAP INCREASES.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State has excess
22 percentage points with respect to an economic
23 downturn quarter and an applicable FMAP (as
24 determined under subparagraph (B)), the State
25 may elect to apply such excess percentage

1 points to increase such applicable FMAP for
2 one or more quarters during the look-back pe-
3 riod for the State and economic downturn quar-
4 ter in accordance with this paragraph.

5 “(B) EXCESS PERCENTAGE POINTS.—For
6 purposes of this paragraph, the number of ex-
7 cess percentage points for a State, economic
8 downturn quarter, and an applicable FMAP
9 shall be equal to the number of percentage
10 points by which—

11 “(i) the applicable FMAP for the
12 State and quarter (after application of
13 paragraph (3) but without regard to sub-
14 paragraph (B)(ii) of such paragraph); ex-
15 ceeds

16 “(ii) 95 percent.

17 “(C) EFFECT OF APPLICATION OF EXCESS
18 PERCENTAGE POINTS.—If a State elects to
19 apply excess percentage points to an applicable
20 FMAP to a quarter during a look-back period
21 under this paragraph, the Secretary shall deter-
22 mine the additional amount of payment under
23 section 1903(a) to which the State would have
24 been entitled for such quarter if the applicable
25 FMAP (as so increased) had been in effect for

1 such quarter, and shall treat such additional
2 amount as an underpayment for such quarter.

3 “(D) DISTRIBUTION OF EXCESS PERCENT-
4 AGE POINTS.—A State that has excess percent-
5 age points with respect to an economic down-
6 turn quarter and applicable FMAP may elect to
7 divide such points among more than 1 quarter
8 during the look-back period for such State and
9 quarter provided that no excess percentage
10 point (or fraction of an excess percentage point)
11 is applied to the applicable FMAP of more than
12 1 quarter.

13 “(E) LIMITATIONS.—

14 “(i) NO INCREASES OVER 100 PER-
15 CENT.—A State may not increase an appli-
16 cable FMAP for any quarter during a look-
17 back period under this paragraph if such
18 increase would result in the applicable
19 FMAP for such quarter exceeding 100 per-
20 cent.

21 “(ii) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—Any
22 increase to an applicable FMAP of a State
23 for a fiscal quarter under this paragraph—

24 “(I) shall only apply with respect
25 to payments for amounts expended by

1 the State for medical assistance for
2 services furnished during such quarter
3 to which such applicable FMAP is ap-
4 plicable; and

5 “(II) shall not apply with respect
6 to payments described in paragraph
7 (3)(B)(i).

8 “(F) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

9 “(i) APPLICABLE FMAP.—The term
10 ‘applicable FMAP’ means, with respect to
11 a State and fiscal quarter—

12 “(I) the Federal medical assist-
13 ance percentage determined for the
14 State and quarter under subsection
15 (b);

16 “(II) the Federal medical assist-
17 ance percentage applicable under sub-
18 section (y);

19 “(III) the Federal medical assist-
20 ance percentage applicable under sub-
21 section (z)(2);

22 “(IV) the Federal medical assist-
23 ance percentage determined for the
24 State and quarter under subsection
25 (ff); or

1 “(V) the enhanced FMAP deter-
2 mined for the State and quarter
3 under section 2105(b).

4 “(ii) LOOK-BACK PERIOD.—The term
5 ‘look-back period’ means, with respect to a
6 State and a fiscal quarter that is an eco-
7 nomic downturn quarter for the State, the
8 period of 4 fiscal quarters that ends with
9 the fourth quarter which precedes the most
10 recent fiscal quarters that was not an eco-
11 nomic downturn quarter for the State.

12 “(6) REQUIREMENT FOR ALL STATES.—This
13 subsection shall not apply to a State with respect to
14 a fiscal quarter, if—

15 “(A) eligibility standards, methodologies,
16 or procedures under the State plan or a waiver
17 of such plan are more restrictive during such
18 quarter than the eligibility standards, meth-
19 odologies, or procedures, respectively, under
20 such plan (or waiver) as in effect on the last
21 day of the most recent fiscal quarter that was
22 not an economic downturn quarter for the
23 State;

24 “(B) the amount of any premium imposed
25 by the State pursuant to section 1916 or 1916A

1 during such quarter, with respect to an indi-
2 vidual enrolled under such plan (or waiver), ex-
3 ceeds the amount of such premium as of the
4 date described in subparagraph (A); or

5 “(C) the State fails to provide that an in-
6 dividual who is enrolled for benefits under such
7 plan (or waiver) as of the date described in sub-
8 paragraph (A) or enrolls for benefits under
9 such plan (or waiver) during the period begin-
10 ning with such date and ending with the day
11 before the first day of the next quarter that is
12 not an economic downturn quarter for the State
13 shall be treated as eligible for such benefits for
14 not less than 12 months after such date or (if
15 later) the date that such individual so enrolls
16 unless the individual requests a voluntary ter-
17 mination of eligibility or the individual ceases to
18 be a resident of the State.”.

19 (b) EXCLUSION OF ECONOMIC DOWNTURN FMAP
20 INCREASES FROM TERRITORIAL CAPS; SPECIAL RULE
21 FOR CHIP ALLOTMENTS.—

22 (1) EXCLUSION FROM TERRITORIAL CAPS.—

23 Section 1108 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
24 1308) is amended—

1 (A) in subsection (f), in the matter pre-
2 ceding paragraph (1), by striking “subsection
3 (g) and section 1935(e)(1)(B)” and inserting
4 “subsections (g) and (h) and section
5 1935(e)(1)(B)”; and

6 (B) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(h) EXCLUSION FROM CAPS OF AMOUNTS ATTRIB-
8 UTABLE TO ECONOMIC DOWNTURN FMAP.—Any pay-
9 ment made to a territory for a fiscal year in which the
10 Federal medical assistance percentage for the territory is
11 determined under section 1905(hh) shall not be taken into
12 account for purposes of applying payment limits under
13 subsections (f) and (g) to the extent that such payment
14 exceeds the amount of the payment that would have been
15 made to the territory for the year if the Federal medical
16 assistance percentage for the territory had been deter-
17 mined without regard to such section.”.

18 (2) CHIP ALLOTMENTS.—Section 2104(m) of
19 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(m)) is
20 amended—

21 (A) in paragraph (2)(B), in the matter
22 preceding clause (i), by striking “paragraphs
23 (5) and (7)” and inserting “paragraphs (5),
24 (7), and (12)”; and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(12) SPECIAL RULE FOR ADJUSTING ALLOT-
4 MENTS DURING FISCAL YEARS WITH ECONOMIC
5 DOWNTURN QUARTERS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a fiscal quarter oc-
7 ccurring during fiscal year 2020 or any suc-
8 ceeding fiscal year is determined to be an eco-
9 nomic downturn quarter with respect to a State
10 (as determined under section 1905(hh)) then,
11 as soon as practicable after such determination,
12 the Secretary shall increase the allotment for
13 the State and fiscal year in accordance with
14 subparagraph (B).

15 “(B) AMOUNT OF INCREASE.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The amount of an
17 increase to the allotment of a State de-
18 scribed in subparagraph (A) for a fiscal
19 year shall be equal to the amount by which
20 Federal payments made to the State for
21 the preceding fiscal year under this title
22 would have been increased (without regard
23 to whether such payments would exceed
24 the amount of the State’s allotment for
25 such preceding fiscal year) if the enhanced

1 FMAP determined for the State for such
2 preceding fiscal year had been increased to
3 the same extent that the State’s enhanced
4 FMAP for the fiscal year involved is ex-
5 pected to be increased as a result of the
6 application of section 1905(hh) relative to
7 the enhanced FMAP that would apply to
8 the State for the fiscal year involved with-
9 out the application of such section.

10 “(ii) INCLUSION OF PROJECTED IN-
11 CREASES.—In increasing the allotment of a
12 State for a fiscal year under this para-
13 graph, the Secretary may base the calcula-
14 tion of such increase on projections made
15 by the Secretary with respect to—

16 “(I) the number of fiscal quar-
17 ters during such fiscal year that will
18 be economic downturn quarters; and

19 “(II) the effect that the applica-
20 tion of section 1905(hh) is expected to
21 have on the enhanced FMAP of the
22 State for such fiscal year.

23 “(C) DISREGARD OF INCREASED PAY-
24 MENTS FOR PURPOSES OF FUTURE ALLOT-
25 MENTS.—Any Federal payment made to a State

1 under this title for a fiscal year in which the
2 Federal medical assistance percentage for the
3 State is determined under section 1905(hh)
4 shall be disregarded when determining the allot-
5 ment of the State for any subsequent year, in-
6 cluding for purposes of applying this paragraph,
7 to the extent that such payment exceeds the
8 amount of the payment that would have been
9 made to the State for the year if the Federal
10 medical assistance percentage for the State and
11 year had been determined without regard to
12 such section.”.

13 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1905(cc)
14 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(cc)) is
15 amended—

16 (1) by striking “and section 6008 of the Fami-
17 lies First Coronavirus Response Act” and inserting
18 “, section 6008 of the Families First Coronavirus
19 Response Act, and subsection (hh) of this section”;
20 and

21 (2) by inserting “, and, in applying such treat-
22 ments to an increase in the Federal medical assist-
23 ance percentage of a State under subsection (hh)
24 with respect to a fiscal quarter that is an economic
25 downturn quarter for the State, the reference to

1 ‘December 31, 2009’ shall be deemed to be a ref-
2 erence to ‘March 11, 2020’, or, if later, the last day
3 of the most recent fiscal quarter that was not an
4 economic downturn quarter for the State” before the
5 period.

○