## 116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

## H. R. 3984

To improve access to emergency medical services, and for other purposes.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 25, 2019

Mr. Flores (for himself, Mr. Marshall, and Mr. Babin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

## A BILL

To improve access to emergency medical 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 "Health Care Safety
- 5 Net Enhancement Act of 2019".
- 6 SEC. 2. CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.
- 7 The constitutional authority upon which this Act
- 8 rests is the power of the Congress to provide for the gen-
- 9 eral welfare, to regulate commerce, and to make all laws
- 10 which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into exe-

1	cution Federal powers, as enumerated in section 8 of arti-
2	cle I of the Constitution of the United States.
3	SEC. 3. PROTECTION FOR EMERGENCY AND RELATED
4	SERVICES FURNISHED PURSUANT TO
5	EMTALA.
6	Section 224(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42
7	U.S.C. 233(g)) is amended—
8	(1) in paragraph (4), by striking "An entity"
9	and inserting "Subject to paragraph (6), an entity";
10	and
11	(2) by adding at the end the following:
12	"(6)(A) For purposes of this section—
13	"(i) an entity described in subparagraph (B)
14	shall be considered to be an entity described in para-
15	graph (4); and
16	"(ii) the provisions of this section shall apply to
17	an entity described in subparagraph (B) in the same
18	manner as such provisions apply to an entity de-
19	scribed in paragraph (4), except that—
20	"(I) notwithstanding paragraph (1)(B), the
21	deeming of any entity described in subpara-
22	graph (B), or of an officer, governing board
23	member, employee, contractor, or on-call pro-
24	vider of such an entity, to be an employee of
25	the Public Health Service for purposes of this

section shall apply only with respect to items and services that are furnished to an individual pursuant to section 1867 of the Social Security Act and to post stabilization services (as defined in subparagraph (D)) furnished to such an individual;

"(II) nothing in paragraph (1)(D) shall be construed as preventing a physician or physician group described in subparagraph (B)(ii) from making the application referred to in such paragraph or as conditioning the deeming of a physician or physician group that makes such an application upon receipt by the Secretary of an application from the hospital or emergency department that employs or contracts with the physician or group, or enlists the physician or physician group as an on-call provider;

"(III) notwithstanding paragraph (3), this paragraph shall apply only with respect to causes of action arising from acts or omissions that occur on or after the date that is 6 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph;

"(IV) paragraph (5) shall not apply to a physician or physician group described in sub-paragraph (B)(ii);

1	"(V) the Attorney General, in consultation
2	with the Secretary, shall make separate esti-
3	mates under subsection (k)(1) with respect to
4	entities described in subparagraph (B) and enti-
5	ties described in paragraph (4) (other than
6	those described in subparagraph (B)), and the
7	Secretary shall establish separate funds under
8	subsection (k)(2) with respect to such groups of
9	entities, and any appropriations under this sub-
10	section for entities described in subparagraph
11	(B) shall be separate from the amounts author-
12	ized by subsection (k)(2);
13	"(VI) notwithstanding subsection (k)(2)
14	the amount of the fund established by the Sec-
15	retary under such subsection with respect to en-
16	tities described in subparagraph (B) may ex-
17	ceed a total of \$10,000,000 for a fiscal year
18	and
19	"(VII) subsection (m) shall not apply to
20	entities described in subparagraph (B).
21	"(B) An entity described in this subparagraph is—
22	"(i) a hospital or an emergency department to
23	which section 1867 of the Social Security Act ap-
24	plies: and

"(ii) a physician or physician group that is em-1 2 ployed by, is under contract with, or is an on-call 3 provider of such hospital or emergency department, 4 to furnish items and services to individuals under 5 such section. 6 "(C) For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'on-7 call provider' means a physician or physician group that— "(i) has full, temporary, or locum tenens staff 8 9 privileges at a hospital or emergency department to 10 which section 1867 of the Social Security Act ap-11 plies; and 12 "(ii) is not employed by or under contract with 13 such hospital or emergency department, but agrees 14 to be ready and available to provide services pursu-15 ant to section 1867 of the Social Security Act or 16 post stabilization services to individuals being treat-17 ed in the hospital or emergency department with or 18 without compensation from the hospital or emer-

20 "(D) For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'post

21 stabilization services' means, with respect to an individual

22 who has been treated by an entity described in subpara-

23 graph (B) for purposes of complying with section 1867

24 of the Social Security Act, services that are—

gency department.

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1 "(i) related to the condition that was so treated; 2 and 3 "(ii) provided after the individual is stabilized in order to maintain the stabilized condition or to 5 improve or resolve the condition of the individual. "(E)(i) Nothing in this paragraph (or in any other 6 provision of this section as such provision applies to enti-8 ties described in subparagraph (B) by operation of subparagraph (A)) shall be construed as authorizing or re-10 quiring the Secretary to make payments to such entities, the budget authority for which is not provided in advance 11 by appropriation Acts. 13 "(ii) The Secretary shall limit the total amount of payments under this paragraph for a fiscal year to the 14 15 total amount appropriated in advance by appropriation Acts for such purpose for such fiscal year. If the total 16 17 amount of payments that would otherwise be made under 18 this paragraph for a fiscal year exceeds such total amount 19 appropriated, the Secretary shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that the total amount of payments 21 under this paragraph for such fiscal year does not exceed 22 such total amount appropriated.".