

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4277

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2015

Mrs. NOEM (for herself and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

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 “Medicare Mental
5 Health Access Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS AS PHY-**
2 **SICIANS FOR PURPOSES OF FURNISHING**
3 **CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The first sentence of section
5 1861(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(r))
6 is amended—

- 7 (1) by striking “or” before “(5)”; and
8 (2) by inserting before the period the following:
9 “, or (6) a clinical psychologist, but only with re-
10 spect to the furnishing of qualified psychologist serv-
11 ices described in subsection (ii) for which the psy-
12 chologist is legally authorized to perform by the
13 State and who is acting within the scope of the psy-
14 chologist’s license (or other authorization under
15 State law)”.

16 (b) **APPLICATION OF MEANINGFUL USE PAYMENTS**
17 **TO CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS.**—For purposes of section
18 1848(a)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-
19 4(a)(7)), for 2017 and 2018, with respect to clinical psy-
20 chologists, the term “applicable percent” means 100 per-
21 cent.

22 (c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
23 subsection (a) shall apply to items and services furnished
24 on or after January 1, 2017.

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