

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2379

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain cognitive impairment detection in the Medicare annual wellness visit and initial preventive physical examination.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 19, 2023

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain cognitive impairment detection in the Medicare annual wellness visit and initial preventive physical examination.

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 “Concentrating on
5 High-value Alzheimer’s Needs to Get to an End Act of
6 2023” or the “CHANGE Act of 2023”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) It is estimated that 6.7 million Americans
2 are living with Alzheimer’s disease, a number that is
3 estimated to rise to nearly 13.8 million by 2060.
4 About 1 in 9 people age 65 and older have Alz-
5 heimer’s.

6 (2) Older Black Americans are twice as likely,
7 and Latino Americans are 1.5 times as likely, to
8 have Alzheimer’s disease than older White Ameri-
9 cans. Nearly two-thirds of Americans with Alz-
10 heimer’s disease are women.

11 (3) In 2021, Alzheimer’s disease was the sev-
12 enth-leading cause of death in the United States.

13 (4) Addressing modifiable risk factors for Alz-
14 heimer’s and other types of dementia such as hyper-
15 tension, physical inactivity, smoking, depression, dia-
16 betes, obesity, and poor nutrition might prevent or
17 delay up to 40 percent of dementia cases. In 2021
18 the National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s disease
19 was updated to include a new goal to focus on reduc-
20 ing risk of developing dementia.

21 (5) An early documented diagnosis commu-
22 nicated to the patient and caregiver enables early ac-
23 cess to care planning services and available medical
24 and non-medical treatments and optimizes patients’

1 ability to build a care team, participate in support
2 services, and enroll in clinical trials.

3 (6) Alzheimer’s exacts an emotional and phys-
4 ical toll on caregivers, resulting in higher incidence
5 of heart disease, cancer, depression, and other health
6 consequences.

7 (7) More than 11 million Americans provide un-
8 paid care for people with Alzheimer’s or other de-
9 mentia and provided nearly \$340 billion in unpaid
10 care to people living with Alzheimer’s and other de-
11 mentia in 2022.

12 (8) In 2023, it is estimated that Alzheimer’s
13 and related dementia will cost our nation \$345 bil-
14 lion, not including the value of unpaid caregiving.
15 By 2050, it is estimated that these direct costs will
16 increase to nearly \$1 trillion.

17 **SEC. 3. COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT DETECTION BENEFIT IN**
18 **THE MEDICARE ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT**
19 **AND INITIAL PREVENTIVE PHYSICAL EXAM-**
20 **INATION.**

21 (a) ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(hhh)(2) of the
23 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(hhh)(2)) is
24 amended by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting
25 the following:

1 “(D) Detection of any cognitive impair-
2 ment that shall—

3 “(i) be performed using one of the
4 cognitive impairment detection tools identi-
5 fied by the National Institute on Aging as
6 meeting its criteria for selecting instru-
7 ments to detect cognitive impairment in
8 the primary care setting; and

9 “(ii) include documentation of the tool
10 used for detecting cognitive impairment
11 and results of the assessment in the pa-
12 tient’s medical record.”.

13 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
14 by paragraph (1) shall apply to annual wellness vis-
15 its furnished on or after January 1, 2024.

16 (b) INITIAL PREVENTIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINA-
17 TION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(ww)(1) of the
19 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(ww)(1)) is
20 amended by striking “agreement with the individual,
21 and” and inserting “agreement with the individual,
22 detection of any cognitive impairment as described
23 in subsection (hhh)(2)(D), and”.

24 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
25 by paragraph (1) shall apply to initial preventive

- 1 physical examinations furnished on or after January
- 2 1, 2024.

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