

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 891

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the recognition of attending physician assistants as attending physicians to serve hospice patients.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 5, 2011

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. CONRAD) 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 the recognition of attending physician assistants as attending physicians to serve hospice patients.

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 Hospice Care
5 Access Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. RECOGNITION OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN ASSIST-**
2 **ANTS AS ATTENDING PHYSICIANS TO SERVE**
3 **HOSPICE PATIENTS.**

4 (a) RECOGNITION OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN AS-
5 SISTANTS AS ATTENDING PHYSICIANS TO SERVE HOS-
6 PICE PATIENTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(dd)(3)(B) of
8 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(dd)(3)(B))
9 is amended—

10 (A) by striking “or nurse” and inserting “,
11 the nurse”; and

12 (B) by inserting “, or the physician assist-
13 ant (as defined in such subsection)” after “sub-
14 section (aa)(5))”.

15 (2) CLARIFICATION OF HOSPICE ROLE OF PHY-
16 SICIAN ASSISTANTS.—Section 1814(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) of
17 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
18 1395f(a)(7)(A)(i)(I)) is amended by inserting “or a
19 physician assistant” after “a nurse practitioner”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
21 this section shall apply to items and services furnished on
22 or after January 1, 2012.

○