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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend Medicare-dependent hospital and Medicare low-volume hospital payments, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a report on Medicare rural hospital designations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend Medicare-dependent hospital and Medicare low-volume hospital payments, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a report on Medicare rural hospital designations.

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 “Assistance for Rural
5 Community Hospitals Act” or the “ARCH Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENDING MEDICARE-DEPENDENT HOSPITAL AND**
2 **MEDICARE LOW-VOLUME HOSPITAL PAY-**
3 **MENTS.**

4 (a) MDH EXTENSION.—

5 (1) EXTENSION OF PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.—

6 Section 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Social Security Act (42
7 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(G)) is amended—

8 (A) in clause (i), by striking “October 1,
9 2024” and inserting “October 1, 2029”; and

10 (B) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “October
11 1, 2024” and inserting “October 1, 2029”.

12 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

13 (A) EXTENSION OF TARGET AMOUNT.—

14 Section 1886(b)(3)(D) of the Social Security
15 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(b)(3)(D)) is amend-
16 ed—

17 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
18 by striking “October 1, 2024” and insert-
19 ing “October 1, 2029” ; and

20 (ii) in clause (iv), by striking “fiscal
21 year 2024” and inserting “fiscal year
22 2029,”.

23 (B) PERMITTING HOSPITALS TO DECLINE
24 RECLASSIFICATION.—Section 13501(e)(2) of
25 the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993
26 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww note) is amended by strik-

1 ing “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “fiscal
2 year 2029,”.

3 (b) LVH EXTENSION.—Section 1886(d)(12) of the
4 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

7 (A) in the matter preceding subclause (I),
8 by striking “through 2024” and inserting
9 “through 2029”;

10 (B) in subclause (III), by striking
11 “through 2024” and inserting “through 2029”;
12 and

13 (C) in subclause (IV), by striking “2025”
14 and inserting “2030”; and

15 (2) in subparagraph (D)—

16 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
17 striking “through 2024” and inserting
18 “through 2029”; and

19 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “through
20 2024” and inserting “through 2029”.

21 **SEC. 3. GAO REPORT ON MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL DES-**
22 **IGNATIONS.**

23 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
24 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
25 States shall submit to Congress a report on Medicare rural

1 hospital designations that includes the following informa-
2 tion:

3 (1) The total number of hospitals that, with re-
4 spect to any of the 5 fiscal years preceding such
5 date of enactment, had any of the following Medi-
6 care rural hospital designations:

7 (A) Designation as a critical access hos-
8 pital (as described in section 1861(mm)(1) of
9 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
10 1395x(mm)(1))).

11 (B) Designation as a low-volume hospital
12 (as described in section 1886(d)(12)(C)(i) of
13 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)(C)(i))).

14 (C) Designation as a medicare-dependent,
15 small rural hospital (as described in section
16 1886(d)(5)(G)(iv) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
17 1395ww(d)(5)(G)(iv))).

18 (D) Designation as a rural emergency hos-
19 pital (as described in section 1861(kkk)(2) of
20 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(kkk)(2))).

21 (E) Designation as a sole community hos-
22 pital (as described in section 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii)
23 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(D)(iii))).

24 (2) An analysis of the extent to which there is
25 overlap between the criteria for any two or more of

1 the Medicare rural hospital designations described in
2 paragraph (1).

3 (3) Recommendations for simplification with re-
4 spect to such designations and any such overlap.