

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital 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 “Rural Hospital Access
5 Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE-DEPENDENT HOS-**
2 **PITAL (MDH) PROGRAM.**

3 (a) EXTENSION OF PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.—Sec-
4 tion 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
5 1395ww(d)(5)(G)) is amended—

6 (1) in clause (i), by striking “, and before Octo-
7 ber 1, 2017”; and

8 (2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “, and before
9 October 1, 2017”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

11 (1) EXTENSION OF TARGET AMOUNT.—Section
12 1886(b)(3)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
13 1395ww(b)(3)(D)) is amended—

14 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
15 striking “, and before October 1, 2017”; and

16 (B) in clause (iv), by striking “through fis-
17 cal year 2017” and inserting “or a subsequent
18 fiscal year”.

19 (2) PERMITTING HOSPITALS TO DECLINE RE-
20 CLASSIFICATION.—Section 13501(e)(2) of the Omni-
21 bus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C.
22 1395ww note) is amended by striking “fiscal year
23 2000 through fiscal year 2017” and inserting “a
24 subsequent fiscal year”.

1 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF THE INCREASED PAYMENTS UNDER**
2 **THE MEDICARE LOW-VOLUME HOSPITAL**
3 **PROGRAM.**

4 Section 1886(d)(12) of the Social Security Act (42
5 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

7 (A) in the heading, by inserting “FOR FIS-
8 CAL YEARS 2005 THROUGH 2010” after “IN-
9 CREASE”; and

10 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
11 striking “and for discharges occurring in fiscal
12 year 2018 and subsequent fiscal years”;

13 (2) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

14 (A) by striking “fiscal years 2011 through
15 2017” each place it appears and inserting “fis-
16 cal year 2011 and each subsequent year”; and

17 (B) by striking “or portion of fiscal year”;
18 and

19 (3) in subparagraph (D)—

20 (A) in the heading, by striking “TEM-
21 PORARY APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE INCREASE”
22 and inserting “APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE IN-
23 CREASE BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2011”;

24 (B) by striking “fiscal years 2011 through
25 2017,” and inserting “fiscal year 2011 and
26 each subsequent fiscal year”; and

- 1 (C) by striking “or the portion of fiscal
- 2 year” each place it appears.