

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 2914

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for appropriate incentive payments under the medicare program for physicians' services furnished in underserved areas.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2002

Mr. ROCKEFELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for appropriate incentive payments under the medicare program for physicians' services furnished in underserved areas.

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 Incentive  
5 Payment Program Refinement Act of 2002".

1 **SEC. 2. REVISION OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS FOR PHYSI-**  
 2 **CIANS' SERVICES FURNISHED IN UNDER-**  
 3 **SERVED AREAS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(m) of the Social Se-  
 5 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(m)) is amended to read as  
 6 follows:

7 “(m) INCENTIVE PAYMENTS FOR PHYSICIANS’ SERV-  
 8 ICES FURNISHED IN UNDERSERVED AREAS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of physicians’  
 10 services furnished by a physician with an applicable  
 11 physician specialty to an individual who is enrolled  
 12 under this part and who incurs expenses for such  
 13 services in an area that is designated under section  
 14 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act as a  
 15 health professional shortage area, in addition to the  
 16 amount otherwise paid under this part, there also  
 17 shall be paid to the physician (or to an employer or  
 18 facility in the cases described in clause (A) of section  
 19 1842(b)(6)) (on a quarterly basis) from the Federal  
 20 Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, an  
 21 amount equal to 20 percent of the payment amount  
 22 for the service under this part.

23 “(2) APPLICABLE PHYSICIAN SPECIALTY DE-  
 24 FINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘applicable  
 25 physician specialty’ means, with respect to a physi-

1       cian, the primary specialty of that physician if the  
2       specialty is one of the following:

3               “(A) General practice.

4               “(B) Family practice.

5               “(C) Pediatric medicine.

6               “(D) General internal medicine.

7               “(E) Obstetrics and gynecology.

8               “(F) General surgery.

9               “(G) Emergency medicine.

10              “(3) AUTOMATION OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

11       The Secretary shall establish procedures under  
12       which the Secretary shall automatically make the  
13       payments required to be made under paragraph (1)  
14       to each physician who is entitled to receive such a  
15       payment. Such procedures shall not require the phy-  
16       sician furnishing the service to be responsible for de-  
17       termining when a payment is required to be made  
18       under that paragraph.”.

19       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
20       subsection (a) shall apply with respect to services fur-  
21       nished on or after January 1, 2003, in an area designated  
22       under section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service  
23       Act (42 U.S.C. 254e(a)(1)(A)) as a health professional  
24       shortage area.

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