

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 343

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit direct payment under the medicare program for clinical social worker services provided to residents of skilled nursing facilities.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 11, 2003

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. BINGAMAN) 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 permit direct payment under the medicare program for clinical social worker services provided to residents of skilled nursing facilities.

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 “Clinical Social Work  
5 Medicare Equity Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERMITTING DIRECT PAYMENT UNDER THE MEDI-**  
 2 **CARE PROGRAM FOR CLINICAL SOCIAL**  
 3 **WORKER SERVICES PROVIDED TO RESI-**  
 4 **DENTS OF SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES.**

5 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1888(e)(2)(A)(ii) of the  
 6 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395yy(e)(2)(A)(ii)) is  
 7 amended by inserting “clinical social worker services,”  
 8 after “qualified psychologist services,”.

9 (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section  
 10 1861(hh)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(hh)(2)) is  
 11 amended by striking “and other than services furnished  
 12 to an inpatient of a skilled nursing facility which the facil-  
 13 ity is required to provide as a requirement for participa-  
 14 tion”.

15 (c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by  
 16 this section shall apply to items and services furnished on  
 17 or after the date that regulations relating to payment for  
 18 physicians’ services for calendar year 2003 take effect, but  
 19 in no case later than the first day of the third month be-  
 20 ginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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