

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 687

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24, 2009

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mrs. MURRAY) 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 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 2009”.

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 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
11 1395x(hh)(2)) is amended by striking “and other than
12 services furnished to an inpatient of a skilled nursing facil-
13 ity which the facility is required to provide as a require-
14 ment for participation”.

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 2010 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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