

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

# H. R. 3831

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the recognition of attending physician assistants as attending physicians to serve hospice patients.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2012

Mr. TERRY (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the recognition of attending physician assistants as attending physicians to serve hospice patients.

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 Hospice Care  
5 Access Act of 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. RECOGNITION OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN ASSIST-**  
2 **ANTS AS ATTENDING PHYSICIANS TO SERVE**  
3 **HOSPICE PATIENTS.**

4 (a) RECOGNITION OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN AS-  
5 SISTANTS AS ATTENDING PHYSICIANS TO SERVE HOS-  
6 PICE PATIENTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(dd)(3)(B) of  
8 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(dd)(3)(B))  
9 is amended—

10 (A) by striking “or nurse” and inserting “,  
11 the nurse”; and

12 (B) by inserting “, or the physician assist-  
13 ant (as defined in such subsection)” after “sub-  
14 section (aa)(5))”.

15 (2) CLARIFICATION OF HOSPICE ROLE OF PHY-  
16 SICIAN ASSISTANTS.—Section 1814(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) of  
17 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
18 1395f(a)(7)(A)(i)(I)) is amended by inserting “or a  
19 physician assistant” after “a nurse practitioner”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
21 this section shall apply to items and services furnished on  
22 or after January 1, 2013.

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