

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1017

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Mr. DENT (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. LANCE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

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 “Removing Barriers to
5 Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Colorectal cancer is the second leading
2 cause of cancer death among men and women com-
3 bined in the United States.

4 (2) In 2017, more than 135,000 Americans will
5 be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and approxi-
6 mately 50,000 Americans will die from it.

7 (3) Approximately 60 percent of colorectal can-
8 cer cases and 70 percent of deaths occur in those
9 aged 65 and older.

10 (4) Colorectal cancer screening colonoscopy al-
11 lows for the detection and removal of polyps, or ab-
12 normal growths, that could become cancerous, as
13 well as for the early detection of colorectal cancer
14 when treatment can be most effective.

15 (5) Although colorectal cancer is largely pre-
16 ventable, one in three adults between the ages of 50
17 and 75 are not up to date with recommended
18 colorectal cancer screening.

19 (6) Over 1,000 organizations have committed to
20 eliminating colorectal cancer as a major public
21 health problem and are working toward the shared
22 goal of reaching 80 percent screened for colorectal
23 cancer by 2018.

(7) Colorectal cancer screening colonoscopy is a highly effective preventive service, and removing financial barriers can help to increase screening rates.

4 SEC. 3. WAIVING MEDICARE COINSURANCE FOR COLOREC-

5 TAL CANCER SCREENING TESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(a)(1)(Y) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)(Y)) is amended by inserting “, including a colorectal cancer screening test (regardless of the code that is billed for the establishment of a diagnosis as a result of the test, or for the removal of tissue or other procedure that is furnished in connection with, as a result of, and in the same clinical encounter as the screening test),” after “section 1861(ddd)(3)”.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
15 this section shall apply to items and services furnished
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

