

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2909

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to study and report on State Medicaid agencies' options related to the distribution of substance use disorder treatment medications under the Medicaid program.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2018

Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to study and report on State Medicaid agencies' options related to the distribution of substance use disorder treatment medications under the Medicaid program.

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 “Assessing Barriers to  
5 Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON STATE OPTIONS RE-**  
2 **LATED TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUB-**  
3 **STANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT MEDI-**  
4 **CATIONS UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.**

5 (a) STUDY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of  
7 the United States (in this section referred to as the  
8 “Comptroller General”) shall conduct a study re-  
9 garding the barriers to providing medication used in  
10 the treatment of substance use disorders under Med-  
11 icaid distribution models such as the “buy-and-bill”  
12 model, and options for State Medicaid programs to  
13 remove or reduce such barriers. The study shall in-  
14 clude analyses of each of the following models of dis-  
15 tribution of substance use disorder treatment medi-  
16 cations, particularly buprenorphine, naltrexone, and  
17 buprenorphine-naloxone combinations:

18 (A) The purchasing, storage, and adminis-  
19 tration of substance use disorder treatment  
20 medications by providers.

21 (B) The dispensing of substance use dis-  
22 order treatment medications by pharmacists.

23 (C) The ordering, prescribing, and obtain-  
24 ing substance use disorder treatment medica-  
25 tions on demand from specialty pharmacies by  
26 providers.

1           (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For each model of dis-  
2           tribution specified in paragraph (1), the Comptroller  
3           General shall evaluate how each model presents bar-  
4           riers or could be used by selected State Medicaid  
5           programs to reduce the barriers related to the provi-  
6           sion of substance use disorder treatment by exam-  
7           ining what is known about the effects of the model  
8           of distribution on—

9                   (A) Medicaid beneficiaries' access to sub-  
10                   stance use disorder treatment medications;

11                   (B) the differential cost to the program be-  
12                   tween each distribution model for medication  
13                   assisted treatment; and

14                   (C) provider willingness to provide or pre-  
15                   scribe substance use disorder treatment medica-  
16                   tions.

17           (b) REPORT.—Not later than 15 months after the  
18           date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
19           shall submit to Congress a report containing the results  
20           of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with  
21           recommendations for such legislation and administrative  
22           action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

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