

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4621

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue and disseminate guidance to States to clarify strategies to address social determinants of health under the Medicaid program and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 2019

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. BILIRAKIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue and disseminate guidance to States to clarify strategies to address social determinants of health under the Medicaid program and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

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 “Collecting and Ana-
5 lyzing Resources Integral and Necessary for Guidance for
6 Social Determinants Act of 2019” or the “CARING for
7 Social Determinants Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
3 ings:

4 (1) Social determinants of health are the condi-
5 tions in which people are born, grow, live, play, work
6 and age; they include factors like socioeconomic sta-
7 tus, education, housing, transportation, nutrition
8 and literacy.

9 (2) Research has shown that addressing social
10 determinants of health is important for improving
11 overall health and reducing health inequities.

12 (3) Social determinants that negatively impact
13 health can have harmful neurodevelopmental and bi-
14 ological consequences that develop in childhood and
15 manifest in adulthood.

16 (4) There is a growing body of evidence sug-
17 gesting that policies that specifically address social
18 needs, including policies targeting children and fami-
19 lies, can improve community health outcomes and
20 have the potential to reduce health care spending.

21 (5) Some State Medicaid programs have begun
22 testing innovative delivery and payment models de-
23 signed to improve health outcomes and reduce costs
24 by implementing strategies to address social deter-
25 minants of health under existing Medicaid authori-
26 ties as well as through the use of waivers, though

1 payment incentives linked to social determinant of
2 health are not common.

3 (6) Despite a growing focus on social deter-
4 minants of health in State managed care contracts,
5 most States do not provide necessary guidance for
6 managed care organizations as to how they may use
7 existing authority under Federal law to provide pa-
8 tients with services that can improve health by ad-
9 dressing social determinants.

10 (7) Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
11 guidance and technical assistance are critical tools
12 that could increase adoption of strategies to address
13 social determinants of health among State Medicaid
14 agencies.

15 (b) PURPOSES.—It is the purpose of this Act to pro-
16 vide States with additional operational clarity and exam-
17 ples of the strategies they can leverage through existing
18 authority and waivers to address social determinants of
19 health for the Medicaid population.

1 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT TO ISSUE GUIDANCE TO CLARIFY**
2 **STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS SOCIAL DETER-**
3 **MINANTS OF HEALTH IN THE MEDICAID PRO-**
4 **GRAM AND THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSUR-**
5 **ANCE PROGRAM.**

6 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human
8 Services shall issue and disseminate guidance to States to
9 clarify strategies to address social determinants of health
10 under the Medicaid program and the Children's Health
11 Insurance Program. Such guidance shall include the fol-
12 lowing:

13 (1) Guidance and technical assistance to State
14 Medicaid agencies regarding the strategies that
15 States can implement under existing authorities
16 under title XI, XIX, or XXI of the Social Security
17 Act, or through waivers, to address social deter-
18 minants of health in the provision of health care, in-
19 cluding strategies specifically targeting the pediatric
20 population.

21 (2) Guidance and technical assistance on how
22 States can encourage and incentivize managed care
23 organizations to address social determinants of
24 health through contracts with such organizations.

25 (3) A compendium of examples from States
26 with respect to how States are currently addressing

1 social determinants of health in the provision of
2 health care under the Medicaid program and the
3 Children's Health Insurance Program, including
4 through payment models.

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