

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8206

To clarify the eligibility for participation of peer support specialists in the furnishing of behavioral health integration services under the Medicare program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) 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 clarify the eligibility for participation of peer support specialists in the furnishing of behavioral health integration services under the Medicare 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 “Promoting Effective  
5       and Empowering Recovery Services in Medicare Act of  
6       2020” or the “PEERS Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. CLARIFYING THE ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION**  
2 **OF PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS IN THE FUR-**  
3 **NISHING OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTEGRA-**  
4 **TION SERVICES UNDER THE MEDICARE PRO-**  
5 **GRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in title XVIII of the So-  
7 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) shall be con-  
8 strued as prohibiting a peer support specialist (as defined  
9 in subsection (b)) from participating in the furnishing of  
10 behavioral health integration services under such title  
11 under the supervision of a physician or other entity billing  
12 for such services under such title.

13 (b) PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST DEFINED.—For pur-  
14 poses of subsection (a), the term “peer support specialist”  
15 means an individual who—

16 (1) is recovering from a mental health or sub-  
17 stance use condition; and

18 (2) is certified as qualified to furnish peer sup-  
19 port services under a certification process consistent  
20 with the National Practice Guidelines for Peer Sup-  
21 porters and inclusive of the Substance Abuse and  
22 Mental Health Services Administration Core Com-  
23 petencies for Peer Workers in Behavioral Health  
24 Settings (as established by the State in which such  
25 individual furnishes such services or under such na-

- 1 tional certification process determined appropriate
- 2 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services).

