

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8581

To direct the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation or live with limb difference.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 13, 2020

Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself and Mr. GUTHRIE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Veterans' Affairs, 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 direct the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation or live with limb difference.

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 “Access to Assistive  
5 Technology and Devices for Americans Study Act” or the  
6 “Triple A Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPROPRIATE COVERAGE OF ASSISTIVE TECH-**  
2 **NOLOGIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after  
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
5 of the United States shall evaluate, and submit to Con-  
6 gress a report on such evaluation, the appropriate cov-  
7 erage, through insurance or otherwise, of assistive tech-  
8 nologies provided to patients who experience amputation  
9 or live with limb difference, particularly prosthetic devices  
10 and custom orthoses, including—

11 (1) timely access to care, including educating  
12 patients regarding options for assistive technologies;

13 (2) assessments and guidelines for assistive de-  
14 vice determinations;

15 (3) matching specific assistive devices with the  
16 needs of the individual beneficiary, such as women;

17 (4) the affordability of assistive devices;

18 (5) the provision of rehabilitation services to  
19 support acclimation to assistive devices; and

20 (6) appropriate timelines for assessments for  
21 surgery and assessments of assistive devices.

22 (b) COMPARISON OF CERTAIN DATA.—As part of the  
23 evaluation conducted under subsection (a), the Comp-  
24 troller General shall compare data on practices and out-  
25 comes derived from the Medicare program under title  
26 XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.),

1 the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the commercial  
2 health insurance market relating to the coverage of assist-  
3 ive technologies, including—

4           (1) the percentage of patients who get access to  
5 assistive devices;

6           (2) performance measures that monitor the  
7 timeliness of processing prosthetic prescriptions;

8           (3) coverage denials and overturn rates;

9           (4) coding for physician or physical therapy as-  
10 sements, including whether a prosthetist was en-  
11 gaged in the assessment;

12           (5) the rate of patients returning to work in  
13 general, and after receiving a prosthetic device com-  
14 parable to other assistive technologies;

15           (6) reductions in long-term assistive technology  
16 services and supports;

17           (7) with respect to those using assistive tech-  
18 nologies, policies to reduce falls and secondary com-  
19 plications, such as diabetes, heart disease, vascular  
20 disease, and others; and

21           (8) the amount expended by individual entities  
22 on prosthetics relative to total amount expended by  
23 such entities.

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