

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1749

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on potential disparities in incurred costs for rural and urban hospitals under the inpatient prospective payment system and to authorize appropriate payment adjustments.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2021

Mr. KELLER (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. STEUBE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on potential disparities in incurred costs for rural and urban hospitals under the inpatient prospective payment system and to authorize appropriate payment adjustments.

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 “Reviewing Urban and
5 Rural Adjustments to Level Hospital Expenses and Lop-

1 sided Payments Act of 2021” or the “RURAL HELP Act
2 of 2021”.

3 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON INCURRED COSTS DISPARITIES UNDER**
4 **IPPS; AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT ADJUST-**
5 **MENTS.**

6 Section 1886(d)(5) of the Social Security Act (42
7 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)) is amended by adding at the end
8 the following new subparagraph:

9 “(N)(i) Not later than 2 years after the date of the
10 enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall con-
11 duct a study to determine if, under the methodology for
12 determining payments under paragraph (1)(A), and using
13 both national and hospital-specific cost-to-charge ratios,
14 costs incurred by hospitals located in rural areas by diag-
15 nosis-related group exceed those costs incurred by hos-
16 pitals located in urban areas.

17 “(ii) Insofar as the Secretary determines through the
18 study conducted under clause (i) that costs incurred by
19 hospitals located in rural areas exceed those costs incurred
20 by hospitals located in urban areas, the Secretary shall
21 provide for an appropriate adjustment to payments under
22 paragraph (1)(A) to reflect those higher costs for dis-
23 charges occurring on or after October 1 of a year specified

- 1 by the Secretary (but in no case later than 2 years after
- 2 the date of the enactment of this subparagraph).”.

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