

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 538

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2025

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself and Ms. SEWELL) 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 remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

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 “Critical Access Hos-
5 pital Relief Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. REMOVING MEDICARE 96-HOUR PHYSICIAN CER-**
2 **TIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR INPATIENT**
3 **CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL SERVICES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1814(a) of the Social Se-
5 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(a)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (6), by adding “and” at the
7 end;

8 (2) in paragraph (7), at the end of subpara-
9 graph (E), by striking “; and” and inserting a pe-
10 riod; and

11 (3) by striking paragraph (8).

12 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by sub-
13 section (a) shall apply with respect to items and services
14 furnished on or after January 1, 2026.

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