

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6364

To amend titles XI, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act with respect to screening for childhood onset fluency disorders, and to require coverage of certain speech therapy services under Medicaid and CHIP.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 2, 2025

Mr. McDOWELL (for himself, Mr. FIGURES, and Mr. VINDMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend titles XI, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act with respect to screening for childhood onset fluency disorders, and to require coverage of certain speech therapy services under Medicaid and CHIP.

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 “Kidd’s Stuttering
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANDING SCREENING AND REQUIRING COV-**
2 **ERAGE OF CERTAIN SPEECH THERAPY SERV-**
3 **ICES UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.**

4 (a) INCLUSION OF SCREENING FOR STUTTERING
5 AND SPEECH FLUENCY IN CORE SET OF CHILD HEALTH
6 QUALITY MEASURES.—Section 1139A(b)(5) of the Social
7 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–9a(b)(5)) is amended—
8 (1) by striking “Beginning no later than” and
9 inserting the following:

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning no later
11 than”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
13 paragraph:

14 “(B) SCREENING FOR STUTTERING AND
15 SPEECH FLUENCY.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than
17 January 1, 2026, the Secretary shall pub-
18 lish changes to the core measures de-
19 scribed in subsection (a) to include meas-
20 ures of screening for childhood-onset flu-
21 ency disorders, including stuttering, for
22 children who have attained the age of 2
23 (and have not attained the age of 6).

24 “(ii) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary
25 shall publish the changes required by
26 clause (i) at the same time and in the

1 same manner as the relevant annual rec-
2 ommended changes required under sub-
3 paragraph (A).”.

4 (b) REQUIRED SCREENING FOR STUTTERING AND
5 SPEECH FLUENCY IN MEDICAID WELL-CHILD VISITS.—
6 Section 1905(r)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42
7 U.S.C. 1396d(r)(1)(B)) is amended—

8 (1) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

9 (2) in clause (v), by striking the period at the
10 end and inserting “, and”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following new
12 clause:

13 “(vi) beginning January 1, 2027, for
14 children who have attained the age of 2
15 (and have not attained the age of 6),
16 screening for childhood-onset fluency dis-
17 orders, including stuttering.”.

18 (c) REQUIRED COVERAGE OF CERTAIN SPEECH
19 THERAPY SERVICES.—

20 (1) MEDICAID.—Title XIX of the Social Secu-
21 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) is amended—

22 (A) in section 1902(a)—

23 (i) in paragraph (10)(A), by striking
24 “and (30)” and inserting “(30), and (32)”;

1 (ii) in paragraph (88)(B)(iii), by
2 striking “and” at the end;

3 (iii) in paragraph (89), by striking the
4 period at the end and inserting “; and”;
5 and

6 (iv) by adding at the end the following
7 new paragraph:

8 “(90) provide that the treatment limitations ap-
9 plicable to specified speech therapy services (as de-
10 fined in section 1905(l)) are no more restrictive
11 than the treatment limitations applicable to any
12 speech therapy services for the treatment of expres-
13 sive language disorder, receptive language disorder,
14 mixed expressive and receptive language disorder, or
15 articulation, for which medical assistance is provided
16 under the State plan (or waiver of such plan).”; and

17 (B) in section 1905—

18 (i) in subsection (a)—

19 (I) in paragraph (31), by striking
20 “and” at the end;

21 (II) by redesignating paragraph
22 (32) as paragraph (33); and

23 (III) by inserting after paragraph
24 (31) the following new paragraph:

1 “(32) beginning on January 1, 2027, specified
2 speech therapy services (as defined in subsection
3 (ll)); and”; and

4 (ii) by adding at the end the following
5 new subsection:

6 “(ll) SPECIFIED SPEECH THERAPY SERVICES.—For
7 purposes of subsection (a)(32), the term ‘specified speech
8 therapy services’—

9 “(1) means speech therapy services for the
10 treatment of childhood-onset fluency disorders, in-
11 cluding stuttering; and

12 “(2) includes such services delivered through
13 real-time, audio and video telecommunications tech-
14 nology.”.

15 (2) CHIP.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 2103(c) of the
17 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397cc(c)) is
18 amended by adding at the end the following
19 new paragraph:

20 “(13) REQUIRED COVERAGE OF CERTAIN
21 SPEECH THERAPY SERVICES.—Beginning January 1,
22 2027, the child health assistance provided to a tar-
23 geted low-income child shall include coverage of
24 specified speech therapy services (as such term is de-
25 fined in section 1905(ll)).”.

1 (B) TREATMENT PARITY.—Section
2 2107(e)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
3 U.S.C. 1397gg(e)(1)) is amended—
4 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs (I)
5 through (W) as subparagraphs (J) through
6 (X), respectively; and
7 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
8 (H) the following new subparagraph:
9 “(I) Section 1902(a)(90) (relating to par-
10 ity in coverage of speech therapy services).”.

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