I want my colleagues to know that S. 671 does not expand covered Medicare services. It would simply give Medicare patients who are living in isolated frontier States, such as Wyoming, more choices for mental health providers.

Today, approximately three-quarters of the nationally designated mental health professional shortage areas are located in rural areas. Over half of all rural counties have no mental health services of any kind. Frontier counties have even fewer dramatic numbers—50 percent do not have a psychiatrist, 88 percent do not have a psychologist, and 78 percent do not have a social worker. Virtually all of Wyoming is designated a mental health professional shortage area.

In Wyoming, there is a total of 474 mental health providers who are currently eligible to care for Medicare patients and bill Medicare for their services—474. Additionally, we have over 500 licensed professional counselors and 61 marriage and family therapists who are currently licensed to practice. None of them are able, at this time, to charge Medicare for the services they provide. By enacting this Senior Mental Health Access and Improvement Act, that would more than double—more than double—the number of mental health providers available to treat seniors in my State.

Medicare patients in Wyoming are often forced to travel great distances to see mental health providers who are currently recognized by the Medicare program. To make matters even more of a challenge, rural and frontier communities have a tough time recruiting and retaining these providers—all providers but especially mental health care providers. In many small towns, a licensed professional counselor or a marriage or family therapist is the only mental health care provider in the area.

Medicare laws only compound the current situation.

Right now, only psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, and clinical nurse specialists can bill Medicare for mental health services. So it is time the Medicare Program recognizes the qualifications of licensed professional counselors and marriage and family therapists. They do play a crucial role in this Nation’s mental health care.

These providers go through rigorous training, and it is similar to the curriculum of a master’s level social worker. They must not be excluded from the Medicare Program. I believe S. 671 is critically important to the health and the well-being of our Nation’s seniors. It is time for this bill to become law.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDENT PRO Tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:29 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 26, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.
The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the reserve of the Army under Title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

- To be colonel
  - Albert A. Augustin
  - Thomas D. Baker
  - Libbie L. Balkame
  - Steven A. Bensdorp
  - Craig J. Bondera
  - Gary W. Brock
  - Courtney R. Brooks
  - Benjamin W. Buchholz
  - Rodney D. Cain
  - Howard J. Tarpley
  - Shane M. Carpenter
  - Joseph B. Corcoran
  - Scott A. Crump
  - Andrew W. Dancy
  - Vindrick M. Davis
  - Robyn R. Deathridge
  - Curtis L. Decker
  - Christopher DeLosSantos
  - Georghi L. Drueg
  - Gary S. Duda
  - Christopher B. Emery
  - Allan J. Feier
  - Paul E. French
  - Kimberly K. Fuerman
  - James J. Gerity
  - Randall D. Gere
  - Karsten E. Haake
  - Jeremy E. Hall
  - Sheila Henderson
  - Michael C. Hershka
  - David K. Howe
  - Keith Jackson
  - Christopher D. Jeselnik
  - Douglas A. Kickew
  - Quint A. Klopfersch
  - Michael Lewczack
  - Barritt D. Lynch
  - Robert S. Matney
  - Ryan M. McAb
  - Laura L. Mogunagals
  - Nathaniel C. Medbery
  - David M. Miller
  - Jorg B. Mitchem
  - Gary G. Morris
  - Joshua J. Munch
  - Tony A. Owens
  - Michael J. Papp
  - Edward L. Peake
  - Donald J. Peterson
  - Robert K. Pettit
  - Marcia M. Persch
  - Kelida S. Pittman
  - Shawn D. Porter
  - Robert R. Bodeper
  - Gregory M. Rogers
  - Edward K. Bowes
  - Daniel L. Salesbury
  - Marcus I. Safir
  - Lamai Sheppard
  - Desiree M. Siglock
  - Michael C. Small
  - John D. Stargel
  - Scott Stuart
  - Christopher R. Teague
  - David C. Thomas
  - Eric S. M. Thompson
  - Bogdan T. Tocarcic

The following named officers for appointment in the grade indicated in the United States Army under Title 10, U.S.C., section 531:

- To be commander
  - Timothy J. Treat
  - Thomas C. Veier
  - Kevin L. Washington
  - Patrick S. Wickert
  - Duane M. Williams
  - Twanda F. Williams
  - Deny L. Winship
  - John E. Woodcock
  - Daniel M. Zehry

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the reserves of the Army under Title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

- To be colonel
  - Albert J. Anderson
  - John C. Boyd
  - Henry C. Carson
  - Gerald T. Catrett
  - James S. Chafee
  - Deborah W. Coleman
  - William E. Crane
  - John M. Effler
  - Michael D. France
  - Robert N. Hibbert
  - Walter E. Herron
  - Richard J. Horbick
  - Jeffrey S. Tipton
  - Mark A. Topoljak
  - Jasper V. Varn III
  - William E. Wynne, Jr.

The following named individuals for regular appointment to the grades indicated in the regular Army National Guard under Title 10, U.S.C., sections 531 and 3064:

- To be major
  - Todd M. Sullivan
  - Vincirena Palmore
  - Janet L. Jackson
  - Scott T. Wales
  - William E. Tiner
  - Harold J. Tarpley
  - Dylester Scott
  - Raul A. Rivera
  - Dylan Scott
  - Richard C. Baltierka
  - Jeffrey S. Davis
  - Richard C. Erickson
  - Sylvester Frederick
  - Tyler H. Lippert
  - Kevin A. Morgan
  - George M. Turner

The following named officers for regular appointment in the grades indicated in the regular Navy under Title 10, U.S.C., section 531:

- To be commander
  - Christopher G. Cunningham
  - Henry J. Zielinski

To be lieutenant commander

- Richard C. Baltierka
- Chris M. Coggins
- Jeffrey S. Davis
- Richard C. Erickson
- Sylvester Frederick
- Tyler H. Lippert
- Kevin A. Morgan
- George M. Turner

The following named individuals for regular appointment in the grade indicated in the United States Navy under Title 10, U.S.C., sections 531 and 592:

- To be commander
  - Janet L. Jackson
  - Vinucrera Palmore
  - Todd M. Sullivan

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, March 25, 2009:

David S. Kris, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The above nomination was approved subject to the nominee’s commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.