

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1096

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require coverage of 3 primary care visits without cost sharing each year under the Medicare program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2025

Ms. SALINAS (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require coverage of 3 primary care visits without cost sharing each year under the Medicare program.

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 “Helping Out Patients  
5 for Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Act” or the “HOPE  
6 and Mental Wellbeing Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING COVERAGE OF 3 PRIMARY CARE VISITS**  
2 **WITHOUT COST SHARING EACH YEAR UNDER**  
3 **MEDICARE.**

4 (a) MEDICARE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833 of the Social  
6 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l) is amended—

7 (A) in subsection (a)(1)—

8 (i) by striking “and” before “(HH)”;

9 and

10 (ii) by inserting before the semicolon  
11 at the end the following: “, and (II) with  
12 respect to the first 3 primary care visits  
13 (as defined in section 1861(nnn)) fur-  
14 nished to an individual during a year (be-  
15 ginning with 2026) for which payment may  
16 be made under a specified outpatient pay-  
17 ment provision described in subsection  
18 (cc)(2), the amounts paid shall be 100 per-  
19 cent of the lesser of the actual charge or  
20 the payment amount otherwise recognized  
21 under such respective specified outpatient  
22 payment provision for such visit”; and

23 (B) in subsection (b), in the first sen-  
24 tence—

25 (i) by striking “and” before “(13)”;

1 (ii) in paragraph (13), by striking “..”  
2 and inserting a period; and  
3 (iii) by inserting before the period at  
4 the end the following: “, and (13) shall not  
5 apply with respect to the first 3 primary  
6 care visits (as defined in section  
7 1861(nnn)) furnished to an individual dur-  
8 ing a year (beginning with 2026) for which  
9 payment may be made under a specified  
10 outpatient payment provision described in  
11 subsection (cc)(2)”.

12 (2) MEDICARE ADVANTAGE.—Section  
13 1852(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
14 1395w–22(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

15 (A) in clause (iv)—

16 (i) by redesignating subclause (VIII)  
17 as subclause (IX); and

18 (ii) by inserting after subclause (VII)  
19 the following new subclause:

20 “(VIII) the first 3 primary care  
21 visits (as defined in section  
22 1861(nnn)) furnished to an enrollee  
23 during a year (beginning with  
24 2026).”; and

1 (B) in clause (v), by striking “and (VII)”  
 2 and inserting “(VII), and (VIII)”.

3 (3) DEFINITION.—Section 1861 of the Social  
 4 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended by add-  
 5 ing at the end the following new subsection:

6 “(nnn) PRIMARY CARE VISIT.—The term ‘primary  
 7 care visit’ means outpatient mental and behavioral health  
 8 services, nonspecialty medical services, and care coordina-  
 9 tion services furnished for the prevention, diagnosis, treat-  
 10 ment, or management of a physical, mental, or behavioral  
 11 health condition.”.

12 (b) MEDICAID.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1916 of the Social  
 14 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396o) is amended—

15 (A) in subsection (a)(2)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (I), by striking  
 17 “or” at the end;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (J), by striking  
 19 “; and” at the end and inserting “, or”;  
 20 and

21 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
 22 lowing new subparagraph:

23 “(K) the first 3 primary care visits (as de-  
 24 fined in section 1861(nnn)) furnished to an in-  
 25 dividual during a year (beginning with 2026)

for which payment may be made under this title; and”; and

(B) in subsection (b)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (I), by striking “or” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (J), by striking “; and” at the end and inserting “, or”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(K) the first 3 primary care visits (as defined in section 1861(nnn)) furnished to an individual during a year (beginning with 2026); and”.

(2) APPLICATION TO ALTERNATIVE COST SHARING.—Section 1916A(b)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396o–1(b)(3)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(xv) The first 3 primary care visits (as defined in section 1861(nnn)) furnished to an individual during a year (beginning with 2026).”.

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