

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3501

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain cognitive impairment detection in the Medicare annual wellness visit and initial preventive physical examination.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2025

Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. BILIRAKIS) 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

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain cognitive impairment detection in the Medicare annual wellness visit and initial preventive physical examination.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) It is estimated that 6.9 million Americans
6 are living with Alzheimer’s disease, a number that is

1 estimated to rise to nearly 13.8 million by 2060.
2 About one in eleven people age 65 and older has Alz-
3 heimer's.

4 (2) Older Black Americans are twice as likely,
5 and Latino Americans are one and one-half times as
6 likely, to have Alzheimer's disease than older White
7 Americans. Nearly two-thirds of Americans with Alz-
8 heimer's disease are women.

9 (3) Alzheimer's disease is the fifth-leading
10 cause of death in America among Americans aged
11 65 and older.

12 (4) Between 2000 and 2021, deaths from
13 stroke, heart disease and HIV decreased, whereas
14 reported deaths from AD increased more than 140
15 percent.

16 (5) Addressing modifiable risk factors for Alz-
17 heimer's and other dementias such as hypertension,
18 physical inactivity, smoking, depression, diabetes,
19 obesity, and poor nutrition might prevent or delay
20 up to 40 percent of dementia cases. In 2021 the Na-
21 tional Plan to Addresses Alzheimer's disease was up-
22 dated to include a new goal to focus on reducing risk
23 of developing dementia.

24 (6) An early, documented diagnosis, commu-
25 nicated to the patient and caregiver, enables early

1 access to care planning services and available med-
2 ical and nonmedical treatments, and optimizes pa-
3 tients' ability to build a care team, participate in
4 support services, and enroll in clinical trials.

5 (7) Alzheimer's exacts an emotional and phys-
6 ical toll on caregivers, resulting in higher incidence
7 of heart disease, cancer, depression, and other health
8 consequences.

9 (8) More than 11.5 million Americans provide
10 unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's or other de-
11 mentia and provided nearly \$347 billion in unpaid
12 care to people living with Alzheimer's and other de-
13 mentias in 2023.

14 (9) In 2024, it is estimated that Alzheimer's
15 and related dementias will cost our nation \$360 bil-
16 lion, not including the value of unpaid caregiving.
17 By 2050, it is estimated that these direct costs will
18 increase to nearly \$1.1 trillion.

19 (10) Medicare and Medicaid are expected to
20 cover nearly \$231 billion, only about 64 percent of
21 the total healthcare and long-term payments for peo-
22 ple with Alzheimer's or dementia. Out-of-pocket
23 spending is expected to be about \$91 billion, or
24 about 25 percent of total payments.

1 **SEC. 2. COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT DETECTION BENEFIT IN**
2 **THE MEDICARE ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT**
3 **AND INITIAL PREVENTIVE PHYSICAL EXAM-**
4 **INATION.**

5 (a) ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(hhh)(2) of the
7 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(hhh)(2)) is
8 amended by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting
9 the following:

10 “(D) Detection of any cognitive impair-
11 ment that shall—

12 “(i) be performed using one of the
13 cognitive impairment detection tools identi-
14 fied by the National Institute on Aging as
15 meeting its criteria for selecting instru-
16 ments to detect cognitive impairment in
17 the primary care setting; and

18 “(ii) include documentation of the tool
19 used for detecting cognitive impairment
20 and results of the assessment in the pa-
21 tient’s medical record.”.

22 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
23 by paragraph (1) shall apply to annual wellness vis-
24 its furnished on or after January 1, 2026.

25 (b) INITIAL PREVENTIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINA-
26 TION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(ww)(1) of the
2 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(ww)(1)) is
3 amended by striking “agreement with the individual,
4 and” and inserting “agreement with the individual,
5 detection of any cognitive impairment as described
6 in subsection (hhh)(2)(D), and”.

7 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
8 by paragraph (1) shall apply to initial preventive
9 physical examinations furnished on or after January
10 1, 2026.

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