

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4204

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow Medicare beneficiaries to choose their physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and chiropractors.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 allow Medicare beneficiaries to choose their physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and chiropractors.

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 “Medicare Patient  
5 Choice Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FREE CHOICE OF THERAPISTS FOR MEDICARE**  
2 **BENEFICIARIES.**

3 Section 1802(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
4 1395a(b)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)—

6 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
7 (A), by striking “physician or practitioner” and  
8 inserting “physician, practitioner, therapist, or  
9 qualified audiologist”; and

10 (B) in subparagraph (B), in the matter  
11 preceding clause (i), by striking “physician or  
12 practitioner” and inserting “physician, practi-  
13 tioner, therapist, or qualified audiologist”;

14 (2) in paragraph (2)(B)—

15 (A) in clause (i), by striking “physician or  
16 practitioner” and inserting “physician, practi-  
17 tioner, therapist, or qualified audiologist”;

18 (B) in clause (v), by striking “physicians  
19 or practitioners” and inserting “physicians,  
20 practitioners, therapists, or qualified audi-  
21 ologists”; and

22 (C) in the matter following clause (v), by  
23 striking “physician or practitioner” and insert-  
24 ing “physician, practitioner, therapist, or quali-  
25 fied audiologist”;

26 (3) in paragraph (3)—

1 (A) in the heading, by striking “PHYSICIAN  
2 OR PRACTITIONER” and inserting “PHYSICIAN,  
3 PRACTITIONER, THERAPIST, OR QUALIFIED AU-  
4 DIOLOGIST”;

5 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “phy-  
6 sician or practitioner” and inserting “physician,  
7 practitioner, therapist, or qualified audiologist”;

8 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (i) in clause (i), by striking “physician  
10 or practitioner” each place it appears and  
11 inserting “physician, practitioner, thera-  
12 pist, or qualified audiologist”; and

13 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “physi-  
14 cian or practitioner” and inserting “physi-  
15 cian, practitioner, therapist, or qualified  
16 audiologist”;

17 (D) in subparagraph (C)—

18 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
19 by striking “physician or practitioner” and  
20 inserting “physician, practitioner, thera-  
21 pist, or qualified audiologist”;

22 (ii) in clause (i), by striking “physi-  
23 cian or practitioner” and inserting “physi-  
24 cian, practitioner, therapist, or qualified  
25 audiologist”; and

1 (iii) in clause (ii), by striking “physi-  
2 cian or practitioner” and inserting “physi-  
3 cian, practitioner, therapist, or qualified  
4 audiologist”; and

5 (E) in subparagraph (D), by striking “phy-  
6 sician or practitioner” each place it appears and  
7 inserting “physician, practitioner, therapist, or  
8 qualified audiologist”;

9 (4) in paragraph (5)—

10 (A) in the heading, by striking “PHYSI-  
11 CIANS AND PRACTITIONERS” and inserting  
12 “PHYSICIANS, PRACTITIONERS, THERAPISTS,  
13 AND QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGISTS”;

14 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “phy-  
15 sicians and practitioners” and inserting “physi-  
16 cians, practitioners, therapists, and qualified  
17 audiologists”; and

18 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

19 (i) in the manner preceding clause (i),  
20 by striking “physicians and practitioners”  
21 and inserting “physicians, practitioners,  
22 therapists, and qualified audiologists”;

23 (ii) in clause (iv), by striking “physi-  
24 cians and practitioners” and inserting

1 “physicians, practitioners, therapists, and  
2 qualified audiologists”; and

3 (iii) in clause (v), by striking “physi-  
4 cians and practitioners” and inserting  
5 “physicians, practitioners, therapists, and  
6 qualified audiologists”; and

7 (5) in paragraph (6)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
9 “paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of”;

10 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

11 (i) in the heading, by striking “PHYSI-  
12 CIAN OR PRACTITIONER” and inserting  
13 “PHYSICIAN, PRACTITIONER, THERAPIST,  
14 OR QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGIST”; and

15 (ii) by striking “physician or practi-  
16 tioner” each place it appears and inserting  
17 “physician, practitioner, therapist, or  
18 qualified audiologist”; and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(E) THERAPIST.—The term ‘therapist’ means  
21 a qualified physical therapist (as such term is used  
22 in section 1861(p)), a qualified occupational thera-  
23 pist (as such term is used in 1861(g)), or a qualified  
24 speech-language pathologist (as defined in  
25 1861(ll)(4)(A)).

1           “(F) QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGIST.—The term  
2           ‘qualified audiologist’ has the meaning given such  
3           term in section 1861(l)(4)(B).”.

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