

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 448

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2017

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services 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 “Medicare Mental
5 Health Access Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS AS PHY-**
 2 **SICIANS FOR PURPOSES OF FURNISHING**
 3 **CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The first sentence of section
 5 1861(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(r))
 6 is amended—

- 7 (1) by striking “or” before “(5)”; and
 8 (2) by inserting before the period the following:
 9 “, or (6) a clinical psychologist, but only with re-
 10 spect to the furnishing of qualified psychologist serv-
 11 ices described in subsection (ii) for which the psy-
 12 chologist is legally authorized to perform by the
 13 State and who is acting within the scope of the psy-
 14 chologist’s license (or other authorization under
 15 State law)”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 17 this section shall apply to items and services furnished on
 18 or after January 1, 2018.

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