

117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 2461

To direct the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation or live with limb difference.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2021

Mr. Butterfield (for himself and Mr. Guthrie) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Veterans' Affairs, 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 direct the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation or live with limb difference.

- 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 "Access to Assistive
- 5 Technology and Devices for Americans Study Act" or the
- 6 "Triple A Study Act".

1	SEC. 2. APPROPRIATE COVERAGE OF ASSISTIVE TECH-
2	NOLOGIES.
3	(a) In General.—Not later than 18 months after
4	the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
5	of the United States shall evaluate, and submit to Con-
6	gress a report on such evaluation, the appropriate cov-
7	erage, through insurance or otherwise, of assistive tech-
8	nologies provided to patients who experience amputation
9	or live with limb difference, particularly prosthetic devices
10	and custom orthoses, including—
11	(1) timely access to care, including educating
12	patients regarding options for assistive technologies;
13	(2) assessments and guidelines for assistive de-
14	vice determinations;
15	(3) matching specific assistive devices with the
16	needs of the individual beneficiary, such as women;
17	(4) the affordability of assistive devices;
18	(5) the provision of rehabilitation services to
19	support acclimation to assistive devices; and
20	(6) appropriate timelines for assessments for
21	surgery and assessments of assistive devices.
22	(b) Comparison of Certain Data.—As part of the
23	evaluation conducted under subsection (a), the Comp-
24	troller General shall compare data on practices and out-
25	comes derived from the Medicare program under title
26	XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 II S.C. 1395 et sea.)

1	the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the commercial
2	health insurance market relating to the coverage of assist-
3	ive technologies, including—
4	(1) the percentage of patients who get access to
5	assistive devices;
6	(2) performance measures that monitor the
7	timeliness of processing prosthetic prescriptions;
8	(3) coverage denials and overturn rates;
9	(4) coding for physician or physical therapy or
10	occupational therapy assessments, including whether
11	a prosthetist was engaged in the assessment;
12	(5) the rate of patients returning to work in
13	general, and after receiving a prosthetic device com-
14	parable to other assistive technologies;
15	(6) reductions in long-term assistive technology
16	services and supports;
17	(7) with respect to those using assistive tech-
18	nologies, policies to reduce falls and secondary com-
19	plications, such as diabetes, heart disease, vascular
20	disease, and others; and
21	(8) the amount expended by individual entities
22	on prosthetics relative to total amount expended by
23	such entities.