

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 766

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a pilot program to expand telehealth options under the Medicare program for individuals residing in public housing located in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ 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 establish a pilot program to expand telehealth options under the Medicare program for individuals residing in public housing located in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. PILOT PROGRAM TO EXPAND TELEHEALTH OP-**
2 **TIONS UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM FOR**
3 **CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834(m) of the Social Se-
5 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)) is amended by adding
6 at the end the following new paragraph:

7 “(5) PILOT PROGRAM.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—During a five-year pe-
9 riod that begins not later than six months after
10 the date of the enactment of this paragraph,
11 the Secretary shall establish and implement a
12 pilot program that applies this subsection, with
13 respect to an individual described in subpara-
14 graph (B), in the manner in which the Sec-
15 retary would apply such subsection if—

16 “(i) such pilot program were, for pur-
17 poses of the provision of paragraph (1) re-
18 lating to store-and-forward technologies, a
19 Federal telemedicine demonstration pro-
20 gram conducted in Alaska or Hawaii;

21 “(ii) any service furnished under the
22 pilot program were, for purposes of para-
23 graph (4)(C)(i) (relating to the furnishing
24 of services at rural sites), furnished at a
25 site that is located in an area described in
26 subclause (I) of such paragraph or a coun-

1 ty described in subclause (II) of such para-
2 graph;

3 “(iii) paragraph (3)(A) required the
4 Secretary to apply the provisions of section
5 1848(g) and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
6 section 1842(b)(18) to a physician or prac-
7 titioner receiving payment under this sub-
8 section in the same manner as they apply
9 to physicians, suppliers (including the sup-
10 pliers that, pursuant to clause (vi), are in-
11 cluded in the definition of ‘practitioner’ for
12 purposes of the pilot program), or practi-
13 tioners under such sections;

14 “(iv) the term ‘telehealth service’, as
15 defined in paragraph (4)(F)(i), included, in
16 addition to such the service described in
17 such paragraph, any physical, respiratory,
18 occupational, psychological, and speech
19 therapy for which coverage is provided
20 under this title when the individual physi-
21 cian or practitioner providing the service is
22 at the same location as the beneficiary;

23 “(v) the term ‘distant site’, as defined
24 in paragraph (4)(A), included, in addition
25 to the sites described in such paragraph,

1 Federally qualified health centers (as de-
2 fined in section 1861(aa)(4)) and rural
3 health clinics (as defined in section
4 1861(aa)(2)); and

5 “(vi) the term ‘practitioner’, as de-
6 fined in paragraph (4)(E), included, in ad-
7 dition to the individuals described in such
8 paragraph, respiratory therapists, audiol-
9 ogists, occupational therapists, physical
10 therapists, and speech language patholo-
11 gists.

12 “(B) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—An indi-
13 vidual described in this subparagraph is an in-
14 dividual who—

15 “(i) is enrolled under this part who
16 receives a telehealth service; and

17 “(ii) resides in public housing (as
18 such term is defined in section 3(b) of the
19 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42
20 U.S.C. 1437a(b))).

21 “(C) ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Not
22 later than the date that is six months after the
23 date of enactment of this paragraph, the Sec-
24 retary shall issue such regulations as are nec-

- 1 essary to carry out the pilot program described
- 2 in this paragraph.”.

