

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3496

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study and submit a report on the effects of the inclusion of quality increases in the determination of blended benchmark amounts under part C of the Medicare program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study and submit a report on the effects of the inclusion of quality increases in the determination of blended benchmark amounts under part C of 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 “Improving Seniors Ac-
5 cess to Quality Benefits Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BLENDED BENCHMARK**
2 **AMOUNT STUDY.**

3 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that the inclusion of quality increases in the deter-
5 mination of blended benchmark amounts under section
6 1853(n)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-
7 23(n)(4)) undermines the goal of delivering high-quality
8 care under the Medicare program under title XVIII of
9 such Act.

10 (b) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than one year
11 after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
12 of Health and Human Services, in consultation with rel-
13 evant stakeholders, shall conduct a study and submit to
14 Congress a report on the effects of the inclusion of quality
15 percentage increases under section 1853(o) of such Act
16 in the determination of blended benchmark amounts under
17 section 1853(n)(4) of such Act. Such study and report
18 shall include an analysis of the following:

19 (1) The authority of the Secretary to remove
20 such increases from the determination of such
21 amounts.

22 (2) The effects of including such increases in
23 the determination of such amounts on Medicare Ad-
24 vantage organizations (including the effects on any
25 contracts entered into by such organizations).

1 (3) The financial impact of including such in-
2 creases in the determination of such amounts by
3 county.

4 (4) The effects of including such increases in
5 the determination of such amounts on individuals
6 enrolled in a plan under part C of title XVIII of
7 such Act.

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