



October 29, 2015

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Health

FROM: Committee Majority Staff

RE: Hearing entitled “Examining Legislation to Improve Medicare and Medicaid.”

I. INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday, November 3, 2015, at 10:15 a.m. in 2322 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing entitled, “Examining Legislation to Improve Medicare and Medicaid.”

II. WITNESSES

Panel 1

- The Honorable Lynn Jenkins (KS-2), U.S. House of Representatives.

Panel 2

- Katherine Iritani, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; and
- Anne Schwartz, PhD, Executive Director, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission.

III. BACKGROUND

At this hearing, the Subcommittee will discuss five bills targeted at improving the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

A. H.R. 2878, to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2015

H.R. 2878, introduced by Rep. Jenkins and Rep. Loeb sack, would extend into calendar year 2015 the instruction to not enforce Medicare’s direct supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services furnished at critical access hospitals and small rural hospitals. The Senate companion, S. 1461, was approved by the Senate Finance Committee on June 24, 2015.

B. Amendment to H.R. 1362, Medicaid REPORTS Act

At the hearing, the Subcommittee will discuss an updated version of H.R. 1362—introduced by Rep. Guthrie—which would implement a Government Accountability Office recommendation by requiring States to submit an annual report on the amount and sources of funds used to finance the nonfederal share of Medicaid.

C. H.R. 2151, Improving Oversight and Accountability in Medicaid Non-DSH Supplemental Payments Act

H.R. 2151, introduced by Rep. Collins, would implement recommendations to improve transparency and accountability for non-DSH supplemental payments. Specifically, the bill would require States to conduct annual audits, and report annually, on non-DSH supplemental payments. It would also require the Secretary of Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to issue guidance to States that identify permissible methods for calculation of non-DSH supplemental payments to providers.

D. Amendment to H.R. 1361, Medicaid HOME Improvement Act

At the hearing, the Subcommittee will discuss an updated version of H.R. 1361, introduced by Rep. Guthrie, which would establish a Federal cap on the home equity allowance consistent with the current Federal default of \$500,000 (\$552,000 in 2015) that is indexed to grow with inflation. Under this policy, more than \$552,000 in home equity would still be sheltered—including home equity of *any* amount if a spouse, child under age 21, or child who is considered blind or disabled lives in the home. If enacted, individuals who have home equity levels above the allowed threshold could use such equity to help cover the cost of their care until they bring the equity interest in their home below the Federal standard, at which point they could obtain Medicaid long-term care coverage if they are otherwise eligible. Individuals could access the equity interest in their home through a variety of legal means, such as a reverse mortgage, home equity loan, or other financial vehicles.

E. H.R. ____, Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act

The Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act, which will be introduced by Rep. Engel and Rep. Stivers, seeks to improve the quality, health outcomes, and value of maternity care under the Medicaid and CHIP programs by developing maternity care quality measures and supporting maternity care quality collaboratives. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million for HHS to award grants to develop and expand quality collaboratives for maternity and infant care. Funding also would be used to increase the availability of reports, tools, and other resources.

IV. STAFF CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Josh Trent or Michelle Rosenberg of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.