

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 7516  
OFFERED BY MS. HAGEMAN OF WYOMING**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Purchased and Re-  
3 ferred Care Improvement Act of 2024”.

**4 SEC. 2. CHANGES TO LIABILITY FOR PAYMENT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 222 of the Indian Health  
6 Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1621u) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) by striking “A patient” and inserting  
9 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law or  
10 any agreement, form, or other written or elec-  
11 tronic document signed by a patient, a patient”;  
12 and

13 (B) by striking “contract health care” and  
14 inserting “purchased/referred care”;

15 (2) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) by striking “contract care” each place  
17 it appears and inserting “purchased/referred  
18 care”;

1 (B) by striking “contract health care” and  
2 inserting “purchased/referred care”;

3 (C) by inserting “, notwithstanding any  
4 other provision of law or any agreement, form,  
5 or other written or electronic document signed  
6 by a patient,” after “by the Service that”; and

7 (D) by inserting “to any provider, debt col-  
8 lector, or any other person” after “is not lia-  
9 ble”;

10 (3) in subsection (c), by inserting “, the debt  
11 collector, or any other person, as applicable” after  
12 “the provider”; and

13 (4) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(d) REIMBURSEMENT.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days  
16 after the date of the enactment of this subsection  
17 and in consultation with Indian Tribes, the Sec-  
18 retary shall establish and implement procedures to  
19 allow a patient that paid out-of-pocket for pur-  
20 chased/referred care services authorized by the Serv-  
21 ice under this Act to be reimbursed by the Service  
22 for that payment not later than 30 days after the  
23 patient submits documentation to the Service pursu-  
24 ant to paragraph (2).

1           “(2) SUBMITTING DOCUMENTATION.—The Sec-  
2           retary shall accept documentation from a patient  
3           seeking reimbursement under paragraph (1) that  
4           was submitted—

5                       “(A) electronically; or

6                       “(B) in-person at a Service facility.

7           “(3) EFFECT.—The preceding provisions of this  
8           subsection shall not apply to purchased/referred care  
9           service furnished under a purchased/referred care  
10          services program operated by an Indian Tribe under  
11          an Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-  
12          ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) compact or con-  
13          tract unless expressly agreed to by the Indian Tribe.

14          “(e) UPDATING AUTHORITIES.—Not later than 180  
15          days of the enactment of this subsection and in consulta-  
16          tion with Indian Tribes, the Secretary shall update appli-  
17          cable provisions of and exhibits to the Indian Health Man-  
18          ual, contracts with providers, and other relevant docu-  
19          ments and administrative authorities to incorporate the  
20          provisions of this section.”.

21          (b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this  
22          section shall apply to purchased/referred care services au-  
23          thorized by the Indian Health Service furnished on, be-  
24          fore, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 4(5) of the Indian Health  
3 Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603) is amended by  
4 striking the paragraph designation and heading and all  
5 that follows through “means” and inserting the following:

6 “(5) PURCHASED/REFERRED CARE.—The term  
7 ‘purchased/referred care’ means”.

8 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Indian Health  
9 Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amend-  
10 ed by striking “contract health service” each place it ap-  
11 pears (regardless of casing and typeface and including in  
12 the headings) and inserting “purchased/referred care”  
13 (with appropriate casing and typeface).

14 (c) UPDATING AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary of  
15 Health and Human Services is directed to ensure that the  
16 Indian Health Manual and all other relevant rules, guid-  
17 ance, manuals, and other materials are revised such that  
18 “contract health service”, each place it appears (regard-  
19 less of casing and typeface and including in the headings)  
20 is revised to read “purchased/referred care” (with appro-  
21 priate casing and typeface).

