

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4952
OFFERED BY M . _____**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Improving Seniors Ac-
3 cess to Quality Benefits Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BLENDED BENCHMARK
5 AMOUNT STUDY.**

6 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that the inclusion of quality increases in the deter-
8 mination of blended benchmark amounts under section
9 1853(n)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-
10 23(n)(4)) undermines the goal of delivering high-quality
11 care under the Medicare program under title XVIII of
12 such Act.

13 (b) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than one year
14 after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
15 of Health and Human Services, in consultation with rel-
16 evant stakeholders, shall conduct a study and submit to
17 Congress a report on the effects of the inclusion of quality
18 percentage increases under section 1853(n)(5) of such Act

1 in the determination of blended benchmark amounts under
2 section 1853(n)(4) of such Act. Such study and report
3 shall include an analysis of the following:

4 (1) The authority of the Secretary to remove
5 such increases from the determination of such
6 amounts.

7 (2) The effects of including such increases in
8 the determination of such amounts on Medicare Ad-
9 vantage organizations (including the effects on any
10 contracts entered into by such organizations).

11 (3) The financial impact of including such in-
12 creases in the determination of such amounts by
13 county.

14 (4) The effects of including such increases in
15 the determination of such amounts on individuals
16 enrolled in a plan under part C of title XVIII of
17 such Act.

