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.
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.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Represen-
tatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Improving Seniors Ac-

CESS TO QUALITY BENEFITS ACT”.

SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BLENDED BENCHMARK

AMOUNT STUDY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress

that the inclusion of quality increases in the determination

of blended benchmark amounts under section 1853(n)(4) of

the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–23(n)(4)) under-

mines the goal of delivering high-quality care under the

Medicare program under title XVIII of such Act.

(b) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than one year

after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary

of Health and Human Services, in consultation with rel-
evant stakeholders, shall conduct a study and submit to

Congress a report on the effects of the inclusion of quality

percentage increases under section 1853(n)(5) of such Act

in the determination of blended benchmark amounts under

section 1853(n)(4) of such Act. Such study and report shall

include an analysis of the following:

(1) The authority of the Secretary to remove such

increases from the determination of such amounts.
(2) The effects of including such increases in the determination of such amounts on Medicare Advantage organizations (including the effects on any contracts entered into by such organizations).

(3) The financial impact of including such increases in the determination of such amounts by county.

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