

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4952

[Report No. 115-]

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. KIND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

JULY --, 2018

Reported from the Committee on Ways and Means with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 6, 2018]

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”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BLENDED BENCHMARK**
7 **AMOUNT STUDY.**

8 *(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress*
9 *that the inclusion of quality increases in the determination*
10 *of blended benchmark amounts under section 1853(n)(4) of*
11 *the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–23(n)(4)) under-*
12 *mines the goal of delivering high-quality care under the*
13 *Medicare program under title XVIII of such Act.*

14 *(b) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than one year*
15 *after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary*
16 *of Health and Human Services, in consultation with rel-*
17 *evant stakeholders, shall conduct a study and submit to*
18 *Congress a report on the effects of the inclusion of quality*
19 *percentage increases under section 1853(n)(5) of such Act*
20 *in the determination of blended benchmark amounts under*
21 *section 1853(n)(4) of such Act. Such study and report shall*
22 *include an analysis of the following:*

23 *(1) The authority of the Secretary to remove such*
24 *increases from the determination of such amounts.*

1 (2) *The effects of including such increases in the*
2 *determination of such amounts on Medicare Advan-*
3 *tage organizations (including the effects on any con-*
4 *tracts entered into by such organizations).*

5 (3) *The financial impact of including such in-*
6 *creases in the determination of such amounts by*
7 *county.*

8 (4) *The effects of including such increases in the*
9 *determination of such amounts on individuals en-*
10 *rolled in a plan under part C of title XVIII of such*
11 *Act.*