

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to address liability for payment of charges or costs associated with provision of purchased/referred care services, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to address liability for payment of charges or costs associated with provision of purchased/referred care services, and for other purposes.

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 “Purchased and Re-
5 ferred Care Improvement Act”.

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

7 Section 222 of the Indian Health Care Improvement
8 Act (25 U.S.C. 1621u) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by striking “A patient” and inserting
3 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
4 patient”;

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

7 (C) by inserting “to any provider, third
8 party debt collector, or any other person” after
9 “shall not be liable”;

10 (2) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) by striking “contract care” each place
12 it appears and inserting “purchased/referred
13 care”;

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

16 (C) by inserting “, notwithstanding any
17 other provision of law,” after “by the Service
18 that”; and

19 (D) by inserting “to any provider, third
20 party debt collector, or any other person” after
21 “is not liable”;

22 (3) in subsection (c), by inserting “, the third
23 party debt collector, or any other person, as applica-
24 ble” after “the provider”; and

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

1 “(d) REIMBURSEMENT.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
3 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
4 Service shall establish and implement procedures to
5 allow a patient that paid directly for purchased/re-
6 ferred care services authorized by the Service under
7 this Act to be reimbursed by the purchased/referred
8 care program for that payment not later than 30
9 days after the patient submits documentation to the
10 Service pursuant to paragraph (2).

11 “(2) SUBMITTING DOCUMENTATION.—The
12 Service shall accept documentation from a patient
13 seeking reimbursement under paragraph (1) that
14 was submitted—

15 “(A) electronically; or

16 “(B) in-person at a Indian health pro-
17 gram.”.