

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1089

To direct the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation or live with limb difference.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 13, 2021

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To direct the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation or live with limb difference.

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 “Access to Assistive
5 Technology and Devices for Americans Study Act” or the
6 “Triple A Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPROPRIATE COVERAGE OF ASSISTIVE TECH-**
2 **NOLOGIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
5 of the United States shall evaluate, and submit to Con-
6 gress a report on such evaluation, the appropriate cov-
7 erage, through insurance or otherwise, of assistive tech-
8 nologies provided to patients who experience amputation
9 or live with limb difference, particularly prosthetic devices
10 and custom orthoses, including—

11 (1) timely access to care, including educating
12 patients regarding options for assistive technologies;

13 (2) assessments and guidelines for assistive de-
14 vice determinations;

15 (3) matching specific assistive devices with the
16 needs of the individual beneficiary, such as women,
17 children, and racial and ethnic minorities;

18 (4) the affordability of assistive devices;

19 (5) the provision of rehabilitation services to
20 support acclimation to assistive devices; and

21 (6) appropriate timelines for assessments for
22 surgery and assessments of assistive devices.

23 (b) COMPARISON OF CERTAIN DATA.—As part of the
24 evaluation conducted under subsection (a), the Comp-
25 troller General shall compare data on practices and out-
26 comes derived from the Medicare program under title

1 XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.),
2 the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the commercial
3 health insurance market relating to the coverage of assist-
4 ive technologies, including—

5 (1) the percentage of patients who get access to
6 assistive devices;

7 (2) performance measures that monitor the
8 timeliness of processing prosthetic prescriptions;

9 (3) coverage denials and overturn rates;

10 (4) coding for physician or physical therapy or
11 occupational therapy assessments, including whether
12 a prosthetist was engaged in the assessment;

13 (5) the rate of patients returning to work in
14 general, and after receiving a prosthetic device com-
15 parable to other assistive technologies;

16 (6) reductions in long-term assistive technology
17 services and supports;

18 (7) with respect to those using assistive tech-
19 nologies, policies to reduce falls and secondary com-
20 plications, such as diabetes, heart disease, vascular
21 disease, and others; and

22 (8) the amount expended by individual entities
23 on prosthetics relative to total amount expended by
24 such entities.

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