

Union Calendar No. 748

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**H. R. 7516****[Report No. 118–916, Part I]**

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2024

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Ms. SCHRIER, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Mr. ZINKE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Additional sponsors: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. COLE, Ms. STANSBURY, Mrs. PELTOLA, and Mr. NEGUSE

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

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

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 1, 2024]

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 Referred*
 5 *Care Improvement Act of 2024”.*

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

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

9 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

10 *(A) by striking “A patient” and inserting*
 11 *“Notwithstanding any other provision of law or*
 12 *any agreement, form, or other written or elec-*
 13 *tronic document signed by a patient, a patient”;*
 14 *and*

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

17 *(2) in subsection (b)—*

18 *(A) by striking “contract care” each place it*
 19 *appears and inserting “purchased/referred care”;*

20 *(B) by striking “contract health care” and*
 21 *inserting “purchased/referred care”;*

22 *(C) by inserting “, notwithstanding any*
 23 *other provision of law or any agreement, form,*
 24 *or other written or electronic document signed by*
 25 *a patient,” after “by the Service that”; and*

1 (D) by inserting “to any provider, debt col-
 2 lector, or any other person” after “is not liable”;
 3 (3) in subsection (c), by inserting “, the debt col-
 4 lector, or any other person, as applicable” after “the
 5 provider”; and

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

7 “(d) *REIMBURSEMENT.*—

8 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 120 days
 9 after the date of the enactment of this subsection and
 10 in consultation with Indian Tribes, the Secretary
 11 shall establish and implement procedures to allow a
 12 patient that paid out-of-pocket for purchased/referred
 13 care services authorized by the Service under this Act
 14 to be reimbursed by the Service for that payment not
 15 later than 30 days after the patient submits docu-
 16 mentation to the Service pursuant to paragraph (2).

17 “(2) *SUBMITTING DOCUMENTATION.*—The Sec-
 18 retary shall accept documentation from a patient
 19 seeking reimbursement under paragraph (1) that was
 20 submitted—

21 “(A) electronically; or

22 “(B) in-person at a Service facility.

23 “(3) *EFFECT.*—The preceding provisions of this
 24 subsection shall not apply to purchased/referred care
 25 service furnished under a purchased/referred care

1 *services program operated by an Indian Tribe under*
 2 *an Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-*
 3 *ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) compact or contract*
 4 *unless expressly agreed to by the Indian Tribe.*

5 “(e) *UPDATING AUTHORITIES.*—Not later than 180
 6 *days of the enactment of this subsection and in consultation*
 7 *with Indian Tribes, the Secretary shall update applicable*
 8 *provisions of and exhibits to the Indian Health Manual,*
 9 *contracts with providers, and other relevant documents and*
 10 *administrative authorities to incorporate the provisions of*
 11 *this section.”.*

12 (b) *APPLICATION.*—The amendments made by this sec-
 13 *tion shall apply to purchased/referred care services author-*
 14 *ized by the Indian Health Service furnished on, before, or*
 15 *after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

16 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

17 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—Section 4(5) of the Indian Health
 18 *Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603) is amended by*
 19 *striking the paragraph designation and heading and all*
 20 *that follows through “means” and inserting the following:*

21 “(5) *PURCHASED/REFERRED CARE.*—The term
 22 *‘purchased/referred care’ means”.*

23 (b) *TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.*—The Indian Health
 24 *Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended*
 25 *by striking “contract health service” each place it appears*

1 *(regardless of casing and typeface and including in the*
2 *headings) and inserting “purchased/referred care” (with*
3 *appropriate casing and typeface).*

4 (c) *UPDATING AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary of*
5 *Health and Human Services is directed to ensure that the*
6 *Indian Health Manual and all other relevant rules, guid-*
7 *ance, manuals, and other materials are revised such that*
8 *“contract health service”, each place it appears (regardless*
9 *of casing and typeface and including in the headings) is*
10 *revised to read “purchased/referred care” (with appropriate*
11 *casing and typeface).*

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