

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2821

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for direct access to audiologists for Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2003

Mr. RYUN of Kansas (for himself and Mrs. CAPPS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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

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## A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for direct access to audiologists for Medicare beneficiaries, 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 “Hearing Health Acces-  
5 sibility Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. DIRECT ACCESS TO QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGISTS FOR**  
2 **MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES.**

3 Section 1861(l)(2) of the Social Security Act (42  
4 U.S.C. 1395x(l)(2)) is amended by inserting before the  
5 period at the end the following: “, without regard to any  
6 requirement that the individual receiving the audiology  
7 services be under the care of (or referred by) a physician  
8 or other health care practitioner or that such services are  
9 provided under the supervision of a physician or other  
10 health care practitioner”.

11 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF AUDIOLOGY SERVICES AS A PART B**  
12 **MEDICAL SERVICE; PAYMENT.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social  
14 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)) is amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (U), by striking “and” at  
16 the end;

17 (2) in subparagraph (V), by inserting “and” at  
18 the end; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
20 paragraph:

21 “(W) audiology services (as defined in sub-  
22 section (l)(2));”.

23 (b) PAYMENT UNDER THE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHED-  
24 ULE.—Section 1848(j)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-  
25 4(j)(3)) is amended by inserting “(2)(W),” after  
26 “(2)(S),”.

1 **SEC. 4. CONSTRUCTION; EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 (a) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be  
3 construed to expand the scope of audiology services for  
4 which payment may be made under title XVIII of the So-  
5 cial Security Act on December 31, 2003.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
7 this Act shall take effect with respect to services furnished  
8 on or after January 1, 2004.

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