

106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5017

To amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand coverage of durable medical equipment to include physician prescribed equipment necessary so unpaid caregivers can effectively and safely care for patients.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2000

Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. BILBRAY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on 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 part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand coverage of durable medical equipment to include physician prescribed equipment necessary so unpaid caregivers can effectively and safely care for patients.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. EXPANDING MEDICARE COVERAGE OF DURA-**  
2 **BLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE PHY-**  
3 **SICIAN PRESCRIBED EQUIPMENT NECESSARY**  
4 **TO ENSURE UNPAID CAREGIVERS CAN EF-**  
5 **ECTIVELY AND SAFELY CARE FOR PA-**  
6 **TIENTS.**

7 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1861(n) of the Social Se-  
8 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(n)) is amended by adding  
9 at the end the following: “Such term includes equipment  
10 that is prescribed by a physician who is primarily  
11 reponsible for the ongoing care of the patient and that  
12 ensures that an unpaid caregiver can effectively and safely  
13 care for the patient.”.

14 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by  
15 subsection (a) applies to equipment furnished on or after  
16 January 1, 2001.

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