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111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 687

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit direct payment under the Medicare program for clinical social worker services provided to residents of skilled nursing facilities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24, 2009

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit direct payment under the Medicare program for clinical social worker services provided to residents of skilled nursing facilities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. PERMITTING DIRECT PAYMENT UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM FOR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER SERVICES PROVIDED TO RESIDENTS OF SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1888(e)(2)(A)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395yy(e)(2)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting ''clinical social worker services,'' after ''qualified psychologist services,''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1861(hh)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(hh)(2)) is amended by striking ''and other than services furnished to an inpatient of a skilled nursing facility which the facility is required to provide as a requirement for participation''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to items and services furnished on or after the date that regulations relating to payment for physicians' services for calendar year 2010 take effect, but in no case later than the first day of the third month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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