

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain cognitive impairment detection in the Medicare annual wellness visit and initial preventive physical examination.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain cognitive impairment detection in the Medicare annual wellness visit and initial preventive physical examination.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) It is estimated that 6,900,000 Americans
6 are living with Alzheimer's disease, a number that is
7 estimated to rise to nearly 13,800,000 by 2060.

1 About 1 in 11 people age 65 and older has Alz-
2 heimer's disease.

3 (2) Older Black Americans are 2 times as like-
4 ly, and Latino Americans are 1.5 times as likely, to
5 have Alzheimer's disease than older White Ameri-
6 cans. Nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of Americans with Alzheimer's dis-
7 ease are women.

8 (3) Alzheimer's disease is the fifth-leading
9 cause of death in America among Americans aged
10 65 and older.

11 (4) Between 2000 and 2021, deaths from
12 stroke, heart disease, and HIV decreased, whereas
13 reported deaths from Alzheimer's disease increased
14 more than 140 percent.

15 (5) Addressing modifiable risk factors for Alz-
16 heimer's disease and other dementias, such as hyper-
17 tension, physical inactivity, smoking, depression, dia-
18 betes, obesity, and poor nutrition, might prevent or
19 delay up to 40 percent of dementia cases. In 2021,
20 the National Plan to Addresses Alzheimer's Disease
21 issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
22 ices under the National Alzheimer's Project Act
23 (Public Law 111-375) was updated to include a new
24 goal to focus on reducing the risk of developing de-
25 mentia.

1 (6) An early, documented diagnosis, commu-
2 nicated to the patient and caregiver, enables early
3 access to care planning services and available med-
4 ical and nonmedical treatments, and optimizes an in-
5 dividual's ability to build a care team, participate in
6 support services, and enroll in clinical trials.

7 (7) Alzheimer's disease exacts an emotional and
8 physical toll on caregivers, resulting in higher inci-
9 dence of heart disease, cancer, depression, and other
10 health consequences.

11 (8) In 2023, more than 11,500,000 Americans
12 provided nearly \$347,000,000,000 in unpaid care for
13 individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.
14

15 (9) In 2024, it is estimated that Alzheimer's
16 and related dementias will cost the United States
17 \$360,000,000,000, not including the value of unpaid
18 caregiving. By 2050, it is estimated that these direct
19 costs will increase to nearly \$1,100,000,000,000.

20 (10) Medicare and Medicaid are expected to
21 cover nearly \$231,000,000,000 of care for individ-
22 uals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias,
23 only about 64 percent of the total healthcare and
24 long-term care payments for individuals with Alz-
25 heimer's disease and related dementias. Out-of-pock-

1 et spending for such care is expected to be about
2 \$91,000,000,000, or about 25 percent of total
3 healthcare and long-term care payments for such in-
4 dividuals.

5 **SEC. 2. COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT DETECTION BENEFIT IN**
6 **THE MEDICARE ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT**
7 **AND INITIAL PREVENTIVE PHYSICAL EXAM-**
8 **INATION.**

9 (a) ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(hhh)(2) of the
11 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(hhh)(2)) is
12 amended by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting
13 the following:

14 “(D) Detection of any cognitive impair-
15 ment that shall—

16 “(i) be performed using 1 of the cog-
17 nitive impairment detection tools identified
18 by the National Institute on Aging as
19 meeting its criteria for selecting instru-
20 ments to detect cognitive impairment in
21 the primary care setting; and

22 “(ii) include documentation of the tool
23 used for detecting cognitive impairment
24 and results of the assessment in the indi-
25 vidual’s medical record.”.

1 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
2 by paragraph (1) shall apply to annual wellness vis-
3 its furnished on or after January 1, 2026.

4 (b) INITIAL PREVENTIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINA-
5 TION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(ww)(1) of the
7 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(ww)(1)) is
8 amended by striking “agreement with the individual,
9 and” and inserting “agreement with the individual,
10 detection of any cognitive impairment as described
11 in subsection (hhh)(2)(D), and”.

12 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
13 by paragraph (1) shall apply to initial preventive
14 physical examinations furnished on or after January
15 1, 2026.