

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to expand and expedite access to cardiac rehabilitation programs and pulmonary rehabilitation programs under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

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**A BILL**

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to expand and expedite access to cardiac rehabilitation programs and pulmonary rehabilitation programs under the Medicare program, 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 “Increasing Access to  
5 Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANDING ACCESS TO CARDIAC REHABILITATION**  
2 **PROGRAMS AND PULMONARY REHABILITA-**  
3 **TION PROGRAMS UNDER MEDICARE PRO-**  
4 **GRAM.**

5 (a) **CARDIAC REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.**—Section  
6 1861(eee) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
7 1395x(eee)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (2)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “a  
10 physician’s office” and inserting “the office of  
11 a physician (as defined in subsection (r)(1)) or  
12 the office of a physician assistant, nurse practi-  
13 tioner, or clinical nurse specialist (as those  
14 terms are defined in subsection (aa)(5))”; and

15 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting after  
16 “physician” the following: “(as defined in sub-  
17 section (r)(1)) or a physician assistant, nurse  
18 practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist (as  
19 those terms are defined in subsection (aa)(5))”;

20 (2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “physician-  
21 prescribed exercise” and inserting “exercise pre-  
22 scribed by a physician (as defined in subsection  
23 (r)(1)) or a physician assistant, nurse practitioner,  
24 or clinical nurse specialist (as those terms are de-  
25 fined in subsection (aa)(5))”; and

1           (3) in paragraph (5), by inserting after “physi-  
2           cian” the following: “(as defined in subsection  
3           (r)(1)) or a physician assistant, nurse practitioner,  
4           or clinical nurse specialist (as those terms are de-  
5           fined in subsection (aa)(5))”.

6           (b) PULMONARY REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.—Sec-  
7           tion 1861(fff) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
8           1395x(fff)) is amended—

9           (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “physician-  
10           prescribed exercise” and inserting “exercise pre-  
11           scribed by a physician (as defined in subsection  
12           (r)(1)) or a physician assistant, nurse practitioner,  
13           or clinical nurse specialist (as those terms are de-  
14           fined in subsection (aa)(5))”; and

15           (2) in paragraph (3), by inserting after “physi-  
16           cian” the following: “(as defined in subsection  
17           (r)(1)) or a physician assistant, nurse practitioner,  
18           or clinical nurse specialist (as those terms are de-  
19           fined in subsection (aa)(5))”.

20           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
21           this section shall apply with respect to items and services  
22           furnished on or after January 1, 2021.

1 **SEC. 3. EXPEDITING ACCESS TO CARDIAC REHABILITATION**  
2 **PROGRAMS AND PULMONARY REHABILITA-**  
3 **TION PROGRAMS UNDER MEDICARE PRO-**  
4 **GRAM.**

5 Section 51008(c) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of  
6 2018 (Public Law 115–123; 42 U.S.C. 1395x note) is  
7 amended by striking “January 1, 2024” and inserting  
8 “January 1, 2021”.