

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4952

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2018

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study and submit a report on the effects of the inclusion of quality increases in the determination of blended benchmark amounts under part C of the Medicare program.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Improving Seniors Ac-
3 cess to Quality Benefits Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BLENDED BENCHMARK**
5 **AMOUNT STUDY.**

6 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that the inclusion of quality increases in the deter-
8 mination of blended benchmark amounts under section
9 1853(n)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-
10 23(n)(4)) undermines the goal of delivering high-quality
11 care under the Medicare program under title XVIII of
12 such Act.

13 (b) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than one year
14 after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
15 of Health and Human Services, in consultation with rel-
16 evant stakeholders, shall conduct a study and submit to
17 Congress a report on the effects of the inclusion of quality
18 percentage increases under section 1853(n)(5) of such Act
19 in the determination of blended benchmark amounts under
20 section 1853(n)(4) of such Act. Such study and report
21 shall include an analysis of the following:

22 (1) The authority of the Secretary to remove
23 such increases from the determination of such
24 amounts.

25 (2) The effects of including such increases in
26 the determination of such amounts on Medicare Ad-

1 vantage organizations (including the effects on any
2 contracts entered into by such organizations).

3 (3) The financial impact of including such in-
4 creases in the determination of such amounts by
5 county.

6 (4) The effects of including such increases in
7 the determination of such amounts on individuals
8 enrolled in a plan under part C of title XVIII of
9 such Act.

Passed the House of Representatives July 24, 2018.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.