

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend title XVIII of the Security Act to preserve access to physicians' services under the Medicare program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. STABENOW introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Security Act to preserve access to physicians' services under 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Save Medicare Act of
5 2008".

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT UP-**
7 **DATE.**

8 Section 1848(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
9 1395w-4(d)), as amended by section 101 of the Medicare,

1 Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (Public Law
2 110–173), is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (8)—

4 (A) in the heading, by striking “A PORTION
5 OF”;

6 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

7 (i) by striking “(A) IN GENERAL.—
8 Subject to” and inserting “Notwith-
9 standing”;

10 (ii) by striking “for the period begin-
11 ning on January 1, 2008, and ending on
12 June 30, 2008,”;

13 (C) by striking subparagraph (B); and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new
15 paragraph:

16 “(9) UPDATE FOR 2009.—In lieu of the update
17 to the single conversion factor established in para-
18 graph (1)(C) that would otherwise apply for 2009,
19 the update to the single conversion factor shall be
20 1.8 percent.”.

21 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF THE PHYSICIAN QUALITY REPORT-**
22 **ING SYSTEM.**

23 (a) SYSTEM.—Section 1848(k)(2)(B) of the Social
24 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–4(k)(2)(B)), as amended

1 by section 101 of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Ex-
2 tension Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–173), is amended—

3 (1) in the heading, by striking “AND 2009” and
4 inserting “, 2009, AND 2010”;

5 (2) in clause (i), by striking “and 2009” and
6 inserting “, 2009, and 2010”; and

7 (3) in each of clauses (ii) and (iii)—

8 (A) by striking “and 2008” and inserting
9 “, 2008, and 2009”; and

10 (B) by striking “or 2009” and inserting “,
11 2009, or 2010”.

12 (b) REPORTING.—Section 101(c) of division B of the
13 Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C.
14 1395w–4 note), as amended by section 101 of the Medi-
15 care, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (Public
16 Law 110–173), is amended—

17 (1) in the heading, by striking “AND 2008” and
18 inserting “, 2008, AND 2009”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (6)(C)—

20 (A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the
21 end;

22 (B) in clause (ii), by striking the period at
23 the end and inserting “; and”; and

24 (C) by adding at the end the following new
25 clause:

1 “(iii) for 2009, all of 2009.”.

2 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF MEDICARE INCENTIVE PAYMENT**
3 **PROGRAM FOR PHYSICIAN SCARCITY AREAS.**

4 Section 1833(u) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
5 1395l(u)), as amended by section 102 of the Medicare,
6 Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (Public Law
7 110–173), is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “July 1,
9 2008” and inserting “January 1, 2010”; and

10 (2) in subparagraph (4)(D), by striking “July
11 1, 2008” and inserting “January 1, 2010”.

12 **SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF FLOOR ON MEDICARE WORK GEO-**
13 **GRAPHIC ADJUSTMENT UNDER THE MEDI-**
14 **CARE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE.**

15 Section 1848(e)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
16 U.S.C. 1395w–4(e)(1)), as amended by section 103 of the
17 Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007
18 (Public Law 110–173), is amended—

19 (1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter pre-
20 ceding clause (i), by striking “subparagraphs (B)”
21 through “the Secretary” and inserting “the suc-
22 ceeding provisions of this paragraph, the Secretary”;
23 and

24 (2) in subparagraph (E), by striking “July 1,
25 2008” and inserting “January 1, 2010”.

1 **SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF ACCOMMODATION OF PHYSICIANS**
2 **ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED**
3 **SERVICES.**

4 Section 1842(b)(6)(D)(iii) of the Social Security Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(6)(D)(iii)), as amended by section
6 116 of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act
7 of 2007 (Public Law 110–173), is amended by striking
8 “July 1, 2008” and inserting “January 1, 2010”.

9 **SEC. 7. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING FISCAL RE-**
10 **SPONSIBILITY.**

11 It is the sense of the Senate that—

12 (1) the provisions of, and amendments made
13 by, this Act should be deficit neutral over the 5-year
14 period beginning on October 1, 2008; and

15 (2) Congress should address the challenges fac-
16 ing the Medicare program in a fiscally responsible
17 manner.

18 **SEC. 8. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING QUALITY.**

19 It is the Sense of the Senate that—

20 (1) the Medicare program should provide pay-
21 ments to physicians and other health professionals
22 that serve as positive incentives for participation in
23 voluntary initiatives to improve health care quality;

24 (2) such initiatives should include pay-for-re-
25 porting programs, programs to facilitate coordina-
26 tion of care, the use of clinical appropriateness cri-

1 teria developed by organizations representing physi-
2 cians and other health care professionals, grants for
3 developing and pilot testing data registry systems,
4 grants for participation in such data registries, and
5 other appropriate initiatives; and

6 (3) financing for such initiatives should be non-
7 punitive and exempt from the Medicare physician fee
8 schedule budget neutrality requirements.