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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy reimbursement for COVID-19 related and future emergency services.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KIND introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy reimbursement for COVID-19 related and future emergency services.

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 “Equitable Community  
5 Access to Pharmacist Services Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COVERAGE OF PHARMACIST SERVICES UNDER**  
2 **MEDICARE PART B.**

3 (a) COVERAGE.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social Se-  
4 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)) is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (GG), by striking “and” at  
6 the end;

7 (2) in subparagraph (HH), by striking the pe-  
8 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
10 paragraph:

11 “(II) pharmacist services and such services and  
12 supplies furnished as an incident to the pharmacist’s  
13 service as would otherwise be covered under part B  
14 if furnished by a physician or as an incident to a  
15 physician’s service that—

16 “(i) are furnished by a pharmacist, as li-  
17 censed or otherwise authorized—

18 “(I) under State law; or

19 “(II) under section 319F–3 or section  
20 361 of the Public Health Service Act, or  
21 other similar Federal law;

22 “(ii) would otherwise be covered under part  
23 B if furnished by a physician, or as incident to  
24 a physician’s service; and

25 “(iii) are services—

1 “(I) for testing and testing-related  
2 services for COVID–19, influenza, res-  
3 piratory syncytial virus, or streptococcal  
4 pharyngitis;

5 “(II) for the initiation of a drug regi-  
6 men for COVID–19, influenza, or strepto-  
7 cocal pharyngitis;

8 “(III) for the administration of a vac-  
9 cine and related services for COVID–19 or  
10 influenza;

11 “(IV) that address a public health  
12 need related to a public health emergency  
13 under section 319F–3 or section 361 of  
14 the Public Health Service Act, or other  
15 similar Federal law; or

16 “(V) as determined by the Secretary  
17 by program instruction or otherwise, in-  
18 cluding the closing of gaps in health eq-  
19 uity.”.

20 (b) PAYMENT.—Section 1833(a)(1) of the Social Se-  
21 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)) is amended—

22 (1) by striking “and (DD)” and inserting  
23 “(DD)”; and

24 (2) by inserting before the semicolon at the end  
25 the following: “(EE) with respect to pharmacist

1 services described in section 1861(s)(2)(II) for which  
2 payment may be made under section 1848, the  
3 amounts paid shall be equal to 85 percent (or 100  
4 percent, in the case of such services furnished pursu-  
5 ant to a Federal emergency authority described in  
6 clause (i)(II) of such section) of an amount deter-  
7 mined by the Secretary or the lesser of the actual  
8 charge for the services or the physician fee schedule  
9 amount provided under section 1848 if such services  
10 had been furnished by a physician”.

11 (c) REASSIGNMENT OF PAYMENT.—Section 1833 of  
12 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l) is amended by  
13 adding at the end the new subsection:

14 “(ee) With respect to pharmacist services described  
15 in section 1861(s)(2)(II) payment may be made on the  
16 basis of a claim or request for payment presented by the  
17 pharmacist furnishing such services, or by a pharmacy,  
18 hospital, critical access hospital, skilled nursing facility or  
19 nursing facility (as defined in section 1919(a)), physician,  
20 group practice, or ambulatory surgical center with which  
21 the pharmacist has an employment or contractual relation-  
22 ship that provides for payment to be made under this part  
23 for such services to such pharmacy, hospital, critical ac-  
24 cess hospital, skilled nursing facility or nursing facility,  
25 physician, group practice, or ambulatory surgical center.”.

1 (d) PROHIBITION ON BALANCE BILLING FOR PHAR-  
2 MACIST SERVICES.—Section 1842(b)(18)(C) of the Social  
3 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(18)(C)) is amended by  
4 adding at the end the following:

5 (vii) A pharmacist.”.

6 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
7 tion shall be construed—

8 (1) to limit flexibilities provided under section  
9 410.32 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or  
10 any successor regulation) in response to COVID–19;  
11 or

12 (2) to restrict the ability of pharmacies and  
13 pharmacists to enroll and obtain reimbursement  
14 under existing pathways under title XVIII of the So-  
15 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) as of the  
16 date of the enactment of this Act, including reim-  
17 bursement as mass immunizers.

18 (f) IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.—Notwith-  
19 standing any other provision of law, the Secretary of  
20 Health and Human Services shall implement the provi-  
21 sions of, and the amendments made by, this section by  
22 interim final rule, program instruction, or otherwise not  
23 later than the date that is 60 days after the date of the  
24 enactment of this Act.