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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to simplify payments for telehealth services furnished by Federally qualified health centers or rural health clinics under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to simplify payments for telehealth services furnished by Federally qualified health centers or rural health clinics 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 “Improving Telehealth
5 for Underserved Communities Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. SIMPLIFYING PAYMENTS FOR TELEHEALTH SERV-**
2 **ICES FURNISHED BY FEDERALLY QUALIFIED**
3 **HEALTH CENTERS OR RURAL HEALTH CLIN-**
4 **ICS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834(m)(8)(B) of the So-
6 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(8)(B)) is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 “(B) PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall pay
9 to a Federally qualified health center or rural
10 health clinic serving as a distant site that fur-
11 nishes a telehealth service to an eligible tele-
12 health individual an amount equal to the
13 amount that such Federally qualified health
14 center or rural health clinic would have been
15 paid under this title had such service been fur-
16 nished without the use of a telecommunications
17 system.”.

18 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
19 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to payments for
20 telehealth services furnished on or after the first day of
21 the emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B)
22 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–5(g)(1)(B)).

23 **SEC. 3. INCREASING LIMITS ON PAYMENT FOR RURAL**
24 **HEALTH CLINIC SERVICES.**

25 Section 1833(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
26 1395l(f)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “, and” and
2 inserting a semicolon;

3 (2) in paragraph (2)—

4 (A) by inserting “(before 2020)” after
5 “subsequent year”; and

6 (B) by striking the period at the end and
7 inserting a semicolon; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following new
9 paragraphs:

10 “(3) in 2020, at \$92.03 per visit; and

11 “(4) in a subsequent year, at the limit estab-
12 lished under this subsection for the previous year in-
13 creased by the percentage increase in the MEI (as
14 so defined) applicable to primary care services (as so
15 defined) furnished as of the first day of that year.”.