116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION  

H. R.  

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PAYNE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

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 “Removing Barriers to
5 Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 2019”.
6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
7 Congress finds the following:
(1) Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women combined in the United States.

(2) In 2019, more than 145,600 Americans will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and approximately 51,000 Americans will die from it.

(3) Approximately 60 percent of colorectal cancer cases and 70 percent of deaths occur in those aged 65 and older.

(4) Colorectal cancer screening colonoscopy allows for the detection and removal of polyps, or abnormal growths, that could become cancerous, as well as for the early detection of colorectal cancer when treatment can be most effective.

(5) Although colorectal cancer is largely preventable, one in three adults over 50 years of age are not up to date with recommended colorectal cancer screening.

(6) Over 1,700 organizations have committed to eliminating colorectal cancer as a major public health problem and are working toward the shared goal of reaching 80 percent screened for colorectal cancer in every community.
(7) Colorectal cancer screening colonoscopy is a highly effective preventive service, and removing financial barriers can help to increase screening rates.

SEC. 3. WAIVING MEDICARE COINSURANCE FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING TESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(a)(1)(Y) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)(Y)) is amended by inserting ‘‘, including a colorectal cancer screening test (regardless of the code that is billed for the establishment of a diagnosis as a result of the test, or for the removal of tissue or other procedure that is furnished in connection with, as a result of, and in the same clinical encounter as the screening test),’’ after ‘‘section 1861(ddd)(3)’’.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to items and services furnished after the date of the enactment of this Act.