

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the accuracy of market-based Medicare payment for clinical diagnostic laboratory services, to reduce administrative burdens in the collection of data, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BROWN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the accuracy of market-based Medicare payment for clinical diagnostic laboratory services, to reduce administrative burdens in the collection of data, 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 “Saving Access to Lab-  
5 oratory Services Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICARE**  
2 **CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS.**

3 (a) USE OF STATISTICAL SAMPLING FOR WIDELY  
4 AVAILABLE CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY  
5 TESTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834A(a)(1) of the  
7 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m–1(a)(1)) is  
8 amended—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Sub-  
10 ject to subparagraph (B)” and inserting “Sub-  
11 ject to subparagraphs (B) and (C)”; and

12 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
13 subparagraph:

14 “(C) USE OF STATISTICAL SAMPLING FOR  
15 WIDELY AVAILABLE CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LAB-  
16 ORATORY TESTS.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause  
18 (ii), with respect to data collection periods  
19 for reporting periods beginning on or after  
20 January 1, 2026, in the case of a widely  
21 available clinical diagnostic laboratory test  
22 (as defined in clause (iii)), in lieu of re-  
23 quiring the reporting of applicable infor-  
24 mation from each applicable laboratory,  
25 the Secretary shall require the collection  
26 and reporting of applicable information

1 from a statistically valid sample of applica-  
2 ble laboratories for each such widely avail-  
3 able clinical diagnostic laboratory test.

4 “(ii) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATIS-  
5 TICAL SAMPLING.—

6 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Sec-  
7 retary, in consultation with stake-  
8 holders, shall develop a methodology  
9 for a statistically valid sample under  
10 clause (i), using the maximal brewer  
11 selection method, as described in the  
12 June 2021 Medicare Payment Access  
13 Commission Report to the Congress,  
14 to establish the payment amount for a  
15 widely available clinical diagnostic lab-  
16 oratory test under paragraph (2) of  
17 subsection (b) for each applicable  
18 HCPCS code for a widely available  
19 clinical diagnostic laboratory test.

20 “(II) REPRESENTATIVE SAM-  
21 PLING.—The methodology under sub-  
22 clause (I) for a statistically valid sam-  
23 ple under clause (i) shall, for each ap-  
24 plicable HCPCS code for a widely

1 available clinical diagnostic laboratory  
2 test—

3 “(aa) provide for a sample  
4 that allows for the payment  
5 amounts established under para-  
6 graph (2) of subsection (b) for  
7 such a test to be representative  
8 of rates paid by private payors to  
9 applicable laboratories receiving  
10 payment under this section, in-  
11 cluding independent laboratories,  
12 hospital laboratories, hospital  
13 outreach laboratories, and physi-  
14 cian office laboratories that fur-  
15 nish the widely available clinical  
16 diagnostic laboratory test;

17 “(bb) include applicable in-  
18 formation (as defined in para-  
19 graph (3)) with respect to such  
20 widely available clinical diag-  
21 nostic laboratory test from such  
22 different types of applicable lab-  
23 oratories; and

24 “(cc) be of sufficient size to  
25 accurately and proportionally

1 represent the range of private  
2 payor payment rates received by  
3 each such type of applicable lab-  
4 oratory weighted according to the  
5 utilization rates of each type of  
6 applicable laboratory for the  
7 widely available clinical diag-  
8 nostic laboratory test during the  
9 first 6 months of the calendar  
10 year immediately preceding the  
11 data collection period applicable  
12 to the sample to be collected.

13 “(III) LEAST BURDENSOME DATA  
14 COLLECTION AND REPORTING PROC-  
15 ESSES.—The methodology developed  
16 by the Secretary shall be designed to  
17 reduce administrative burdens of data  
18 collection and reporting on applicable  
19 laboratories and the Centers for Medi-  
20 care & Medicaid Services to the great-  
21 est extent practicable.

22 “(IV) PUBLICATION OF LIST OF  
23 WIDELY AVAILABLE CLINICAL DIAG-  
24 NOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS AND NO-  
25 TIFICATION TO APPLICABLE LABORA-



1 this section is less than \$1,000 per  
2 test.

3 “(II) NUMBER OF LABORATORIES  
4 PERFORMING THE TEST.—The num-  
5 ber of applicable laboratories receiving  
6 payments under this section for the  
7 clinical diagnostic laboratory test (as  
8 determined by the Secretary using the  
9 national provider identifier of the pro-  
10 vider of services or supplier on the  
11 claim submitted for payment under  
12 this part for such test) exceeds 100.”.

13 (2) DELAYS TO REVISED REPORTING PERIODS  
14 AND REPORTING PERIOD FREQUENCY.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section  
16 1834A(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42  
17 U.S.C. 1395m–1(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

18 (i) in clause (i), by striking “Decem-  
19 ber 31, 2022” and inserting “December  
20 31, 2024”;

21 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “begin-  
22 ning January 1, 2023, and ending March  
23 31, 2023” and inserting “beginning Janu-  
24 ary 1, 2026, and ending March 31, 2026”;  
25 and

1 (iii) in clause (iii) by striking “every  
2 three years” and inserting “every four  
3 years”.

4 (B) CONFORMING CHANGE TO DEFINITION  
5 OF DATA COLLECTION PERIOD.—Section  
6 1834A(a)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act (42  
7 U.S.C. 1395m–1(a)(4)(B)) is amended by strik-  
8 ing “January 1, 2019, and ending June 30,  
9 2019” and inserting “January 1, 2025, and  
10 ending June 30, 2025”.

11 (b) ELIMINATION OF MAJORITY OF MEDICARE REVE-  
12 NUES TEST.—The first sentence of section 1834A(a)(2)  
13 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m–1(a)(2)) is  
14 amended by striking “In this section” and all that follows  
15 through the period and inserting the following: “Notwith-  
16 standing determinations of applicable laboratories made  
17 prior to January 1, 2024, the term ‘applicable laboratory’  
18 means a laboratory that receives at least \$12,500 in pay-  
19 ments under this section during the first 6 months of the  
20 calendar year immediately preceding the applicable data  
21 collection period.”.

22 (c) MODIFICATIONS TO APPLICABLE INFORMATION  
23 REPORTED.—

24 (1) MEDICAID MANAGED CARE RATES.—Section  
25 1834A(a)(8)(C) of the Social Security Act (42



1 U.S.C. 1395m–1(a)(8)(C)) is amended by striking  
2 “A medicaid managed care organization” and insert-  
3 ing “With respect to data collection periods for re-  
4 porting periods beginning before January 1, 2026, a  
5 medicaid managed care organization (as defined in  
6 section 1903(m))”.

7 (2) AUTHORITY TO EXCLUDE MANUAL REMIT-  
8 TANCES.—Section 1834A(a)(3) of the Social Secu-  
9 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m–1(a)(3)) is amended—

10 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “sub-  
11 ject to subparagraph (B),” and inserting “sub-  
12 ject to subparagraphs (B) and (C)”;

13 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
14 subparagraph:

15 “(C) EXCLUSION OF MANUAL REMIT-  
16 TANCES.—An applicable laboratory for which  
17 less than 10 percent of its total paid claims  
18 during a data collection period are paid by pri-  
19 vate payors by means other than an electronic  
20 standard transaction (as defined in section  
21 162.103 of title 45, Code of Federal Regula-  
22 tions (or any successor regulation)) may exclude  
23 from the definition of applicable information  
24 under this paragraph payments made by private

1 payors that are not made through an electronic  
2 standard transaction.”.

3 (d) MODIFICATION TO LIMITS ON PAYMENT REDUC-  
4 TIONS; IMPOSITION OF ANNUAL CAP ON PAYMENT IN-  
5 CREASES.—

6 (1) PAYMENT REDUCTION LIMITS.—Section  
7 1834A(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
8 1395m–1(b)(3)) is amended—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “for  
10 each of 2017 through 2025” and inserting “for  
11 2017 and each succeeding year”; and

12 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at  
14 the end; and

15 (ii) by striking clause (iii) and insert-  
16 ing the following:

17 “(iii) for 2023, 0 percent;

18 “(iv) for 2024, 2.5 percent; and

19 “(v) for 2025 and each subsequent  
20 year, 5 percent.”.

21 (2) ANNUAL CAP ON PAYMENT RATE IN-  
22 CREASES.—Section 1834A(b)(3) of the Social Secu-  
23 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m–1(b)(3)), as amended by  
24 paragraph (1), is amended—

25 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) by striking “test for 2017 and  
2 each succeeding year—” and inserting  
3 “test—

4 “(i) for 2017 and each succeeding  
5 year”; and

6 (ii) in clause (i), as added by clause  
7 (i) of this subparagraph, by striking the  
8 period and inserting “; and”; and

9 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
10 lowing new clause:

11 “(ii) for 2023 and each succeeding  
12 year, shall not result in an increase in pay-  
13 ments for a clinical diagnostic laboratory  
14 test for the year of greater than the appli-  
15 cable percent (as defined in subparagraph  
16 (D)) of the amount of payment for the test  
17 for the preceding year.”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (B), in the matter  
19 preceding clause (i), by striking “In this para-  
20 graph” and inserting “In clause (i) of subpara-  
21 graph (A)”;

22 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
23 subparagraph:

24 “(D) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE PER-  
25 CENT FOR PURPOSES OF ANNUAL CAP ON PAY-

1           MENT INCREASES.—In clause (ii) of subpara-  
2           graph (A), the term ‘applicable percent’ means  
3           the following:

4                   “(i) WIDELY AVAILABLE CLINICAL DI-  
5                   AGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS.—With re-  
6                   spect to a widely available clinical diag-  
7                   nostic laboratory test—

8                           “(I) for 2023, 2.5 percent;

9                           “(II) for 2024, 2.5 percent;

10                          “(III) for 2025, 3.75 percent,

11                          “(IV) for 2026, 3.75 percent;

12                          and

13                          “(V) for 2027 and each subse-  
14                          quent year, 5 percent; and

15                          “(ii) OTHER CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC  
16                          LABORATORY TESTS.—With respect to a  
17                          clinical diagnostic laboratory test not de-  
18                          scribed in clause (i), 5 percent.”.

19           (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
20           1834A(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
21           1395m–1(b)(3)) is amended in the heading by strik-  
22           ing “REDUCTIONS” and inserting “MEDICARE PAY-  
23           MENT CHANGES”.

24           (e) REGULATIONS.—(1) Not later than December 31,  
25           2023, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall

1 implement the amendments made by this section (other  
2 than subsection (d)) through notice and comment rule-  
3 making.

4       (2) The Secretary of Health and Human Services  
5 may implement the amendments made by subsection (d)  
6 through interim final rulemaking, program instruction, or  
7 otherwise.