

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4612

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect coverage for screening mammography, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2021

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Mr. UPTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect coverage for screening mammography, 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 “Protecting Access to
5 Lifesaving Screenings Act of 2021” or the “PALS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROTECTING COVERAGE FOR SCREENING MAM-**
2 **MOGRAPHY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective during the period begin-
4 ning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending
5 January 1, 2028, any provision of law that refers (includ-
6 ing through cross-reference to another provision of law)
7 to the current recommendations of the United States Pre-
8 ventive Services Task Force with respect to breast cancer
9 screening mammography shall be administered as if—

10 (1) such reference to such current recommenda-
11 tions were a reference to the recommendations of
12 such Task Force with respect to breast cancer
13 screening mammography last issued before 2009;
14 and

15 (2) such recommendations last issued before
16 2009 applied to any screening mammography modal-
17 ity under section 1861(jj) of the Social Security Act
18 (42 U.S.C. 1395x(jj)).

19 (b) CONTINUING MEDICARE COVERAGE WITHOUT
20 COINSURANCE.—Section 1833(a)(1)(Y) of the Social Se-
21 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)(Y)) is amended by in-
22 serting after “in the case of such services described in sub-
23 paragraph (A)” the following: “(other than screening
24 mammography)”.

25 (c) MAINTAINING FREQUENCY OF MEDICARE COV-
26 ERAGE.—Section 1834(c)(2)(B)(ii) of the Social Security

1 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(c)(2)(B)(ii)) is amended by insert-
2 ing before the period at the end the following: “, except
3 that in the case of a woman over 39 years of age, such
4 revision may not decrease such frequency”.

5 (d) CLARIFYING THE DEFINITION OF SCREENING
6 MAMMOGRAPHY.—Section 1861(jj) of the Social Security
7 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(jj)) is amended by inserting “, in-
8 cluding any digital modality (such as screening breast
9 tomosynthesis) of such a procedure,” after “radiologic
10 procedure”.

11 (e) APPLICATION TO SERVICES FURNISHED
12 THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Sec-
13 tion 7322(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 “(b) The policy developed under subsection (a), and
16 any other policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs
17 relating to mammography screening, shall—

18 “(1) specify standards of mammography screen-
19 ing that ensure that the frequency of such
20 screenings is not less than the frequency of such
21 screenings provided pursuant to section 2(a) of the
22 Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screenings Act of
23 2021;

24 “(2) provide recommendations, consistent with
25 paragraph (1), with respect to screening, and the

1 frequency of screening, for veterans, without regard
2 to age, who have clinical symptoms, risk factors, or
3 family history of breast cancer; and
4 “(3) provide for clinician discretion in indi-
5 vidual cases.”.

○