

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8252

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to codify patients' rights to hospital visitation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 28, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW (for himself and Mr. HARRIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 codify patients' rights to hospital visitation, 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 “No Patient Left Alone
5 Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. PATIENT VISITATION RIGHTS.**

7 Section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
8 1395x) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (e)—

1 (A) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (B) by redesignating paragraph (9) as
4 paragraph (10);

5 (C) by inserting after paragraph (8) the
6 following new paragraph:

7 “(9) has written policies and procedures regard-
8 ing the visitation rights of individuals receiving
9 items and services at the institution, which shall in-
10 clude a description of any clinically necessary or rea-
11 sonable restriction or limitation that such institution
12 may need to place on such rights and the reasons
13 for the clinical restriction or limitation, and a re-
14 quirement that such institution—

15 “(A) inform each such individual of his or
16 her visitation rights, including any clinical re-
17 striction or limitation on such rights;

18 “(B) inform each such individual of the
19 right, subject to the individual’s consent, to re-
20 ceive the visitors whom the individual des-
21 ignates, including a spouse, another family
22 member, or a friend, and the individual’s right
23 to withdraw or deny such consent at any time;

24 “(C) may not restrict, limit, or otherwise
25 deny visitation privileges on the basis of race,

1 color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability;
2 and

3 “(D) ensure that all visitors enjoy full and
4 equal visitation privileges consistent with this
5 paragraph; and”; and

6 (D) in the matter following paragraph
7 (10), as redesignated, by striking “paragraph
8 (9)” each place it appears and inserting “para-
9 graph (10)” in each such place; and
10 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “(9)” and in-
11 serting “(10)”.

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