

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1653

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion of Medicare coverage for hearing aids and examinations therefor, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 remove the exclusion of Medicare coverage for hearing aids and examinations therefor, 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 “Medicare Hearing Aid
5 Coverage Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. REMOVING MEDICARE EXCLUSION OF COVERAGE**
2 **OF HEARING AIDS AND EXAMINATIONS**
3 **THEREFOR.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1862(a)(7) of the Social
5 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(a)(7)) is amended by strik-
6 ing “hearing aids or examinations therefor.”.

7 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
8 this section shall apply to items and services furnished on
9 or after January 1, 2016.

10 **SEC. 3. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON HEARING AID PRO-**
11 **GRAMS.**

12 (a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United
13 States shall conduct a study of programs, including Fed-
14 eral programs and health insurance coverage, that provide
15 assistance for hearing aids and related examinations for
16 individuals with hearing loss. Such study shall include an
17 examination of the number of individuals in the United
18 States with hearing loss who need hearing aids, their cov-
19 erage under such programs, and the effectiveness of such
20 programs in meeting such need. Such study may also ad-
21 dress programs that are designed to reduce or mitigate
22 the incidence of hearing loss.

23 (b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the
24 date specified in section 2(c), the Comptroller General
25 shall submit a report to Congress on the study conducted
26 under subsection (a). Such report shall include such rec-

- 1 ommendations on changes in such programs, including the
- 2 establishment of new programs, as would meet the needs
- 3 of individuals with hearing loss.

