
Issue Brief

FEDERAL ISSUE BRIEF



Analysis provided for MHA by Larry Goldberg, Goldberg Consulting

March 9, 2025

House Republicans Advances Bill to Keep the Federal Government Open Through September 30, 2025

House Republicans, led by Speaker Johnson have unveiled a six-month stopgap government funding plan, which seeks cuts to nondefense programs while boosting funding for defense.

The plan, considered a continuing resolution (CR), seeks to keep the government funded through September 30th, the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. Republicans say funding levels in the 102-page bill are below those previously set as part of a bipartisan funding deal last year.

The plan would allow for moderate increases to defense funding to the tune of about \$6 billion above fiscal 2024 levels, though below levels previously agreed to for fiscal 2025 under a bipartisan spending-limits deal struck in 2023.

The bill, which is expected to be voted on this Tuesday, does contain several items relate to Medicare and Medicaid. Division B contains the particulars and are reported below.

Division B

Title II Medicare

SEC. 2201. EXTENSION OF INCREASED INPATIENT HOSPITAL PAYMENT ADJUSTMENT FOR CERTAIN LOW-VOLUME HOSPITALS

Extends this provision through the end of FY 2025.

SEC. 2202. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE-DEPENDENT HOSPITAL (MDH) PROGRAM

Extends this provision through the end of FY 2025. This provision would also allow hospitals to decline reclassification for all of FY 2025.

SEC. 2203. EXTENSION OF ADD-ON PAYMENTS FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES

Extends this provision through the end of FY 2025.

SEC. 2204. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR QUALITY MEASURE ENDORSEMENT, INPUT, AND SELECTION

Extends this provision through the end of FY 2025.

The provision also strikes the amount of \$11,030,000 approved for such activities through March 31, 2025 and inserts \$14 030,000 till September 30, 2025. In other words, this is a payment reduction. Eleven million approved for 6 months, but only \$3 million for the 6 months remaining to till FY 2026.

SEC. 2205. EXTENSION OF FUNDING OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS

State Health Insurance Assistance Programs

Section 119 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1395b-3 note) is amended by striking "March 31, 2025, \$22,500,000" and inserting "September 30, 2025, \$30,000,000".

Area Agencies on Aging

Section 119 is amended by striking "March 31, 2025, \$22,500,000" and inserting "September 30, 2025, \$30,000,000".

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

Section 119 is amended by striking "March 31, 2025, \$8,500,000" and inserting "September 30, 2025, \$10,000,000".

Coordination of Efforts to Inform Older Americans About Benefits Available Under Federal and State Programs

Section 119 is amended by striking "March 31, 2025, \$22,500,000" and inserting "September 30, 2025, \$30,000,000".

SEC. 2206. EXTENSION OF THE WORK GEOGRAPHIC INDEX FLOOR

Section 1848(e)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(e)(1)(E)) is amended by striking "April 1, 2025" and inserting "October 1, 2025".

SEC. 2207. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN TELEHEALTH FLEXIBILITIES

(a) Removing Geographic Requirements and Expanding Originating Sites for Telehealth Services

Section 1834(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B)(iii), by striking "ending March 31, 2025" and inserting "ending September 30, 2025"; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(C)(iii), by striking "ending on March 31, 2025" and inserting "ending on September 30, 2025".

(b) Expanding Practitioners Eligible to Furnish Telehealth Services

Section 1834(m)(4)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(4)(E)) is amended by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on September 30, 2025”.

(c) Extending Telehealth Services for Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics

Section 1834(m)(8)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(8)(A)) is amended by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on September 30, 2025”.

(d) Delaying the In-Person Requirements Under Medicare For Mental Health Services

Furnished Through Telehealth and Telecommunications Technology

(1) Section 1834(m)(7)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(7)(B)(i)) is amended, by striking “on or after April 1, 2025” and inserting “on or after October 1, 2025”.

(2) Mental Health Visits Furnished by Rural Health Clinics.—Section 1834(y)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(y)(2)) is amended by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “October 1, 2025”.

(3) Mental Health Visits Furnished by Federally Qualified Health Centers.—Section 1834(o)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(o)(4)(B)) is amended by striking “April 1, 13 2025” and inserting “October 1, 2025”.

(e) Allowing for the Furnishing of Audio Only Telehealth Services

Section 1834(m)(9) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(9)) is amended by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on September 30, 2025”.

(f) Extending Use of Telehealth to Conduct Face-To-Face Encounter Prior To Recertification of Eligibility for Hospice Care

Section 1814(a)(7)(D)(i)(II) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(a)(7)(D)(i)(II)) is amended by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on September 30, 25 2025”.

(g) Program Instruction Authority

The Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendments made by this section through program instruction or otherwise.

SEC. 2208. EXTENDING ACUTE HOSPITAL CARE AT HOME WAIVER AUTHORITIES

Section 1866G(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc-7(a)(1)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 2209. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY INCLUSION OF AUTHORIZED ORAL ANTIVIRAL DRUGS AS COVERED PART D DRUGS.

Section 1860D-2(e)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-102(e)(1)(C)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 2210. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking “\$1,251,000,000” and inserting “\$1,804,000,000”.

TITLE IV—MEDICAID

SEC. 2401. DELAYING MEDICAID DSH REDUCTIONS

Section 1923(f)(7)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-4(f)(7)(A)) is amended to prevent Medicaid DSH funding reductions through FY 2025.