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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on potential disparities in incurred costs for rural and urban hospitals under the inpatient prospective payment system and to authorize appropriate payment adjustments.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KELLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on potential disparities in incurred costs for rural and urban hospitals under the inpatient prospective payment system and to authorize appropriate payment adjustments.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Reviewing Urban and
3 Rural Adjustments to Level Hospital Expenses and Lop-
4 sided Payments Act of 2020” or the “RURAL HELP Act
5 of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON INCURRED COSTS DISPARITIES UNDER**
7 **IPPS; AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT ADJUST-**
8 **MENTS.**

9 Section 1886(d)(5) of the Social Security Act (42
10 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)) is amended by adding at the end
11 the following new subparagraph:

12 “(N)(i) Not later than 2 years after the date of the
13 enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall con-
14 duct a study to determine if, under the methodology for
15 determining payments under paragraph (1)(A), and using
16 both national and hospital-specific cost-to-charge ratios,
17 costs incurred by hospitals located in rural areas by diag-
18 nosis-related group exceed those costs incurred by hos-
19 pitals located in urban areas.

20 “(ii) Insofar as the Secretary determines through the
21 study conducted under clause (i) that costs incurred by
22 hospitals located in rural areas exceed those costs incurred
23 by hospitals located in urban areas, the Secretary shall
24 provide for an appropriate adjustment to payments under
25 paragraph (1)(A) to reflect those higher costs for dis-
26 charges occurring on or after October 1 of a year specified

- 1 by the Secretary (but in no case later than 2 years after
- 2 the date of the enactment of this subparagraph).”.