116TH CONGRESS  2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the scope of practitioners eligible for payment for telehealth services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SHERRILL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ______________________

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the scope of practitioners eligible for payment for telehealth services under the Medicare program, 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 “Expanded Telehealth

5 Access Act”.

(Original Signature of Member)
SEC. 2. EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF PRACTITIONERS ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT FOR TELEHEALTH SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE.

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

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “or a practitioner (described in section 1842(b)(18)(C))” and inserting “or a professional described in paragraph (4)(E))”; and

(B) by striking “individual physician or practitioner” and inserting “individual physician or professional”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “practitioner” each place it appears and inserting “professional” each such place;

(B) by inserting before “located at a distant site” the following “(or, in the case of an occupational therapy assistant described in paragraph (4)(E)(ii)(II) or a physical therapist assistant described in paragraph (4)(E)(ii)(II), shall pay with respect to such assistant)”;

(C) by inserting “(or, in the case of an occupational therapy assistant described in para-
graph (4)(E)(ii)(II) or a physical therapist assistant described in paragraph (4)(E)(ii)(II),
the amount that would have been paid under this title with respect to such assistant)” after “would have been paid under this title”;
(3) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “or practitioner” and inserting “or professional”; and
(4) in paragraph (4)—
(A) in each of subparagraphs (A) and (C), by striking “or practitioner” and inserting “or professional”; and
(B) by amending subparagraph (E) to read as follows:
“(E) PROFESSIONAL DESCRIBED.—A professional described in this subparagraph is—
“(i) a practitioner described in section 1842(b)(18)(C); or
“(ii) with respect to services furnished on or after the date of enactment of the Expanded Telehealth Access Act, a licensed—
“(I) audiologist;
“(II) occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant under
the supervision of an occupational therapist;

“(III) physical therapist and physical therapist assistant under the supervision of a physical therapist;

“(IV) speech language pathologist;

“(V) facility described in paragraph (8) or (9) of section 1833(a) that furnishes telehealth therapy services; and

“(VI) any additional health care provider, as specified by the Secretary, who participates under this title and furnishes a service that is included as a telehealth service under this subsection.”.

(b) ADDITIONAL COVERED TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m)(4)(F)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(4)(F)(i)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Such term shall include, audiology services (as defined in section 1861(ll)) and outpatient therapy services (including such services furnished by a therapy assistant (as defined by the Secretary), including physical therapy of the type described
in section 1861(p), occupational therapy of the type that are described in section 1861(g), and speech-language pathology services of the type described in section 1861(ll)(2).".