To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand accessibility to certain telehealth services under the Medicare program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Smith of Missouri introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand accessibility to certain telehealth services under the Medicare program.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
3 This Act may be cited as the “Permanency for Audio-Only Telehealth Act”.

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SEC. 2. EXPANDING ACCESSIBILITY TO CERTAIN TELE-
HEALTH SERVICES UNDER THE MEDICARE
PROGRAM.

(a) Use of Audio-only Telecommunications Systems for Certain Services.—Section 1834(m)(4)
of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-
graph:

“(G) Telecommunications system.—

“(i) In general.—The term ‘tele-
communications system’ includes, in the
case of the furnishing of a specified tele-
health service (as defined in clause (ii)), a
communications system consisting only of
audio capabilities.

“(ii) Specified telehealth service.—For purposes of clause (i), the term
‘specified telehealth service’ means a tele-
health service consisting of—

“(I) evaluation and management
services;

“(II) mental and behavioral
health services;

“(III) substance use disorder
services; or
“(IV) any other service specified by the Secretary.”.

(b) **Removing Geographic Restrictions and Expanding the Use of the Home as an Originating Site for Certain Telehealth Services.**—Section 1834(m)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(7)) is amended—

(1) in the header, by striking “SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER” and inserting “CERTAIN”;

(2) by striking “with respect to telehealth services” and inserting the following: “with respect to—

“(A) telehealth services”;

(3) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new sub-paragraph:

“(B) telehealth services consisting of evaluation and management services or mental and behavioral health services furnished on or after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph to an eligible telehealth individual at an originating site described in paragraph (4)(C)(ii)(X).”.