116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION
H. R.

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to ensure the extension of the telehealth waiver authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language-pathologists, and certain other providers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. AXNE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on __________________________

A BILL

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to ensure the extension of the telehealth waiver authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language-pathologists, and certain other providers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emergency COVID Telehealth Response Act”.
SEC. 2. ENSURING EXTENSION OF SECRETARIAL TELE-HEALTH WAIVER AUTHORITY TO PHYSICAL THERAPISTS, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS, SPEECH LANGUAGE-PATHOLOGISTS, AND CERTAIN OTHER PROVIDERS.

Subsection (b) of section 1135 of the Social Security Act is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence:

“In exercising authority under paragraph (8) during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on the last day of the emergency period described in subsection (g)(1)(B), the Secretary shall provide that a practitioner described in section 1834(m) shall be treated as including a physical therapist, physical therapist assistant working under the supervision of a physical therapist, occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant working under the supervision of an occupational therapist, speech language-pathologist, clinical social worker (as defined in section 1861(hh)(1)), and audiologist.”.