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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to forgive the repayment, extend the timeline of repayment, and lower the interest rate of Medicare hospital accelerated payments made during the COVID–19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

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 authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to forgive the repayment, extend the timeline of repayment, and lower the interest rate of Medicare hospital accelerated payments made during the COVID–19 public health emergency, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Saving Rural Hospitals
3 from Closure Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZING THE FORGIVENESS OF REPAYMENT,**
5 **EXTENSION OF REPAYMENT, AND LOWERING**
6 **OF INTEREST RATE OF MEDICARE HOSPITAL**
7 **ACCELERATED PAYMENTS MADE DURING**
8 **THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.**

9 Section 1815 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
10 1395g) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (d), by inserting “subject to
12 subsection (f)(5),” after “determination,”; and

13 (2) in subsection (f)(2)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
15 “subject to paragraph (5),” before “the Sec-
16 retary”; and

17 (B) by adding at the end the following new
18 paragraph:

19 “(5)(A) Upon the request of a hospital, the
20 Secretary may forgive the repayment, extend the
21 timeline of repayment described in subparagraph
22 (C)(i), and lower the interest rate of any accelerated
23 payment within 30 days of receiving such request if
24 such a hospital experiences significant financial
25 hardship.

1 “(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), ‘sig-
2 nificant financial hardship’ means, with respect to a
3 hospital, the existence of a serious chance of closure,
4 impending bankruptcy, large-scale layoffs, or any
5 other situation the Secretary determines appro-
6 priate.”.