

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect coverage for screening mammography, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect coverage for screening mammography, 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 “Protecting Access to
5 Lifesaving Screenings Act of 2021” or the “PALS Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROTECTING COVERAGE FOR SCREENING MAM-**
7 **MOGRAPHY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective during the period begin-
9 ning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending

1 January 1, 2028, any provision of law that refers (includ-
2 ing through cross-reference to another provision of law)
3 to the current recommendations of the United States Pre-
4 ventive Services Task Force with respect to breast cancer
5 screening mammography shall be administered as if—

6 (1) such reference to such current recommenda-
7 tions were a reference to the recommendations of
8 such Task Force with respect to breast cancer
9 screening mammography last issued before 2009;
10 and

11 (2) such recommendations last issued before
12 2009 applied to any screening mammography modal-
13 ity under section 1861(jj) of the Social Security Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 1395x(jj)).

15 (b) CONTINUING MEDICARE COVERAGE WITHOUT
16 COINSURANCE.—Section 1833(a)(1)(Y) of the Social Se-
17 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)(Y)) is amended by in-
18 serting after “in the case of such services described in sub-
19 paragraph (A)” the following: “(other than screening
20 mammography)”.

21 (c) MAINTAINING FREQUENCY OF MEDICARE COV-
22 ERAGE.—Section 1834(c)(2)(B)(ii) of the Social Security
23 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(c)(2)(B)(ii)) is amended by insert-
24 ing before the period at the end the following: “, except

1 that in the case of a woman over 39 years of age, such
2 revision may not decrease such frequency”.

3 (d) CLARIFYING THE DEFINITION OF SCREENING
4 MAMMOGRAPHY.—Section 1861(jj) of the Social Security
5 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(jj)) is amended by inserting “, in-
6 cluding any digital modality (such as screening breast
7 tomosynthesis) of such a procedure,” after “radiologic
8 procedure”.

9 (e) APPLICATION TO SERVICES FURNISHED
10 THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Sec-
11 tion 7322(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 “(b) The policy developed under subsection (a), and
14 any other policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs
15 relating to mammography screening, shall—

16 “(1) specify standards of mammography screen-
17 ing that ensure that the frequency of such
18 screenings is not less than the frequency of such
19 screenings provided pursuant to section 2(a) of the
20 Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screenings Act of
21 2021;

22 “(2) provide recommendations, consistent with
23 paragraph (1), with respect to screening, and the
24 frequency of screening, for veterans, without regard

1 to age, who have clinical symptoms, risk factors, or
2 family history of breast cancer; and
3 “(3) provide for clinician discretion in indi-
4 vidual cases.”.