

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To clarify the eligibility for participation of peer support specialists in the furnishing of behavioral health integration services under the Medicare program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To clarify the eligibility for participation of peer support specialists in the furnishing of behavioral health integration services under the Medicare program.

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 “Promoting Effective
5 and Empowering Recovery Services in Medicare Act of
6 2021” or the “PEERS Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. CLARIFYING THE ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION**
2 **OF PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS IN THE FUR-**
3 **NISHING OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTEGRA-**
4 **TION SERVICES UNDER THE MEDICARE PRO-**
5 **GRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in title XVIII of the So-
7 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) shall be con-
8 strued as prohibiting a peer support specialist (as defined
9 in subsection (b)) from participating in the furnishing of
10 behavioral health integration services under such title
11 under the supervision of a physician or other entity billing
12 for such services under such title.

13 (b) PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST DEFINED.—For pur-
14 poses of subsection (a), the term “peer support specialist”
15 means an individual who—

16 (1) is recovering from a mental health or sub-
17 stance use condition; and

18 (2) is certified as qualified to furnish peer sup-
19 port services under a certification process consistent
20 with the National Practice Guidelines for Peer Sup-
21 porters and inclusive of the Substance Abuse and
22 Mental Health Services Administration Core Com-
23 petencies for Peer Workers in Behavioral Health
24 Settings (as established by the State in which such
25 individual furnishes such services or under such na-

1 tional certification process determined appropriate
2 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services).