

Thurs 7/30
6:42 pm
B

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 3200
OFFERED BY MR. ROSS OF ARKANSAS**

[AINS-EC__001]

Add at the end of subtitle B of title I of division B
the following:

1 **SEC. 1150. AUDIOLOGY SERVICES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Approximately 30,000,000 Americans expe-
4 rience some degree of hearing loss and by 2030 that
5 number is expected to increase to 78,000,000 Ameri-
6 cans.

7 (2) Hearing impairment is one of the most
8 common conditions affecting older adults, with ap-
9 proximately 33 percent of Americans aged 60 years
10 and over, and 40 to 50 percent of those aged 75
11 years and older, experiencing hearing loss.

12 (3) Hearing loss is a major barrier to partici-
13 pating in society, both economically and socially.

14 (4) Hearing loss among senior citizens, if left
15 untreated, can result in isolation and depression.

16 (5) The Department of Veterans Affairs allows
17 veterans to directly access audiologists and has re-

1 reported that this policy, adopted in 1992, provides
2 high-quality, efficient, and cost-effective hearing
3 care.

4 (6) The Office of Personnel Management allows
5 Federal employees and Members of Congress to di-
6 rectly access audiologists through the Federal Em-
7 ployees Health Benefits Program.

8 (7) Audiologists are licensed in each State and
9 the District of Columbia and the scope of services
10 furnished by audiologists is determined by each such
11 jurisdiction involved.

12 (8) Consistency in Federal policy with respect
13 to hearing health care services should be encouraged
14 to the greatest extent possible.

15 (b) ENABLING MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES TO HAVE
16 THEIR CHOICE OF QUALIFIED HEARING HEALTH CARE
17 PROVIDERS.—Section 1861(l)(3) of the Social Security
18 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(l)(3)) is amended by inserting be-
19 fore the period at the end the following: “, without regard
20 to any requirement that the individual receiving the audi-
21 ology services be under the care of (or referred by) a phy-
22 sician or other health care practitioner or that such serv-
23 ices are provided under the supervision of a physician or
24 other health care practitioner”.

1 (c) INCLUSION OF AUDIOLOGY SERVICES AS MED-
2 ICAL SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE PART B; PAYMENT
3 FOR SUCH SERVICES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the
5 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)), as
6 amended by section 1308, is amended—

7 (A) in subparagraph (GG), by striking
8 “and” at the end;

9 (B) in subparagraph (HH), by inserting
10 “and” at the end; and

11 (C) by adding after subparagraph (HH)
12 the following new subparagraph:

13 “(II) audiology services (as defined in sub-
14 section (l)(3));”.

15 (2) PAYMENT UNDER THE PHYSICIAN FEE
16 SCHEDULE.—Section 1848(j)(3) of such Act (42
17 U.S.C. 1395w-4(j)(3)) is amended by inserting
18 “(2)(HH),” after “(2)(EE),”.

19 (d) CONSTRUCTION; EFFECTIVE DATE.—

20 (1) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amend-
21 ments made by this section shall be construed to ex-
22 pand the scope of audiology services for which pay-
23 ment may be made under title XVIII of the Social
24 Security Act on December 31, 2009.

1 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
2 by this section shall take effect with respect to serv-
3 ices furnished on or after January 1, 2010.

