The Genomic Answers for Children's Health Act (H.R.7118)
Genomic Answers for Children's Health Alliance

Improving the Diagnosis & Treatment of Kids on Medicaid

Leaders: Representatives Scott Peters (D-CA) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Representatives Marc Veasey (D-TX), Troy Balderson (R-OH), Kevin Mullin (D-CA), Mike Carey (R-OH), Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), and Maria Salazar (R-FL)

Problems Facing Certain Children on Medicaid

It can take children with rare diseases and/or genetic diseases years to get the right diagnosis.

This can include:

- Many visits with different doctors
- Extra tests and procedures
- Wrong diagnoses
- Delays in getting helpful care

Some kids might need a test that looks at most or all their genes to help get a diagnosis. This is called an advanced *genomic test*. It is like finding a typo in a book that has millions of pages.

Not all state Medicaid programs cover these tests for children. The programs might only cover:

- A different type of test
- A test in a different setting, such as in the hospital vs. in the doctor's office
- A test for only some ages

The time it takes to get a diagnosis might mean a kid's health gets worse while families and doctors search for a diagnosis and wait for insurance to cover their test.

Why Genomic Sequencing Helps Children on Medicaid

- Genomic testing is more likely to show what is wrong than other tests that only look at one gene or a series of genes.
- Research shows that genomic testing can save money in some cases, especially when a child is admitted to the hospital.
- Genomic testing can provide a faster diagnosis, which allows for quicker treatment or medical care.

For more information visit: www.GACHAlliance.org

The Genomic Answers for Children's Health Act Can Help

Makes clear genomic testing is a covered Medicaid service. It also creates a way for hospitals to help pay for genomic testing when a child is admitted to the hospital.

Ensure understanding of the new policies. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has to bring together the organizations who work on the testing and payment process, called *stakeholders*, to make them aware of the new policies in the bill.

Reports to Congress About Makes it Hard to Get Care:
An office called the *Government Accountability Office (GAO)* has to make a report about the bill within two years to:

- Study state reimbursement rates
- Study health outcomes of children who get genomic testing paid for by Medicaid
- Study how hard it was to do the things the bill requires
- Find other ways it is hard to get care
- Find other ways Congress can help

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