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(Original Signature of Member)

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a floor on payments to sole community hospitals located in Alaska and Hawaii under the hospital outpatient prospective payment system.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. BEGICH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a floor on payments to sole community hospitals located in Alaska and Hawaii under the hospital outpatient prospective payment system.

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 “Save our Lone Emer-  
5       gency Services Act” or the “SOLES Act”.



1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF SOLE COMMUNITY HOSPITALS LO-**  
2 **CATED IN ALASKA AND HAWAII UNDER HOS-**  
3 **PITAL OUTPATIENT PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT**  
4 **SYSTEM.**

5 Section 1833(t) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
6 1395l(t)) is amended by adding at the end the following  
7 new paragraph:

8 “(23) TREATMENT OF SOLE COMMUNITY HOS-  
9 PITALS LOCATED IN ALASKA AND HAWAII.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary deter-  
11 mines that the amount of payment under this  
12 subsection for covered OPD services furnished  
13 by a sole community hospital (as defined in sec-  
14 tion 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii)) that is located in Alas-  
15 ka or Hawaii is less than 94 percent of the rea-  
16 sonable costs (as defined in section 1861(v)) of  
17 the hospital providing such services, the amount  
18 of payment under this subsection shall be in-  
19 creased by the amount of such difference.

20 “(B) NO EFFECT ON COPAYMENTS.—  
21 Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to  
22 affect the copayment amount under paragraph  
23 (8).

24 “(C) APPLICATION WITHOUT REGARD TO  
25 BUDGET NEUTRALITY.—The additional pay-  
26 ments made under this paragraph—



1                   “(i) shall not be considered an adjust-  
2                   ment under paragraph (2)(E); and

3                   “(ii) shall not be implemented in a  
4                   budget neutral manner.

5                   “(D) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 6  
6                   months after the date of enactment of this  
7                   paragraph, the Secretary shall promulgate regu-  
8                   lations to carry out this paragraph, which shall  
9                   be effective with respect to covered OPD serv-  
10                  ices furnished on or after the first January 1  
11                  after such date.”.

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the application of a cost-of-living adjustment to the non-labor related portion for hospital outpatient department services furnished in Alaska and Hawaii.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Ms. TOKUDA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the application of a cost-of-living adjustment to the non-labor related portion for hospital outpatient department services furnished in Alaska and Hawaii.

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 “Ensuring Outpatient  
5       Quality for Rural States Act”.



1 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT TO**  
2 **NON-LABOR RELATED PORTION FOR HOS-**  
3 **PITAL OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT SERVICES**  
4 **FURNISHED IN ALASKA AND HAWAII.**

5 Section 1833(t) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
6 1395l(t)) is amended by adding at the end the following  
7 new paragraph:

8 “(23) APPLICATION OF COST-OF-LIVING AD-  
9 JUSTMENT TO NON-LABOR RELATED PORTION FOR  
10 HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT SERVICES  
11 FURNISHED IN ALASKA AND HAWAII.—With respect  
12 to covered OPD services furnished on or after Janu-  
13 ary 1, 2026, the Secretary may provide for adjust-  
14 ments to the payment amounts under this subsection  
15 for such services in the same manner that is pro-  
16 vided under section 1886(d)(5)(H) with respect to  
17 the application of the cost-of-living adjustment to  
18 the non-labor related portion of such payment  
19 amounts to take into account the unique cir-  
20 cumstances of hospitals located in Alaska or Hawaii.  
21 The preceding sentence shall not be applied in a  
22 budget neutral manner.”.