

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2905

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the occurrence of diabetes in Medicare beneficiaries by extending coverage under Medicare for medical nutrition therapy services to such beneficiaries with pre-diabetes or with risk factors for developing type 2 diabetes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 20, 2019

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the occurrence of diabetes in Medicare beneficiaries by extending coverage under Medicare for medical nutrition therapy services to such beneficiaries with pre-diabetes or with risk factors for developing type 2 diabetes.

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 “Preventing Diabetes  
5 in Medicare Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) According to the Centers for Disease Con-  
2           trol and Prevention, there are more than 84,000,000  
3           adults with pre-diabetes in the United States. The  
4           Centers estimates that 48 percent of adults who are  
5           65 years of age or older have pre-diabetes. Fewer  
6           than 12 percent of adults with pre-diabetes have  
7           been told by a doctor that they have it.

8           (2) For a significant number of people with  
9           pre-diabetes, early intervention can reverse elevated  
10          blood glucose levels to normal range and prevent di-  
11          abetes and its complications completely or can sig-  
12          nificantly delay its onset. According to the Institute  
13          for Alternative Futures, if 50 percent of adults with  
14          pre-diabetes were able to successfully make lifestyle  
15          changes proven to prevent or delay diabetes, then by  
16          2025 approximately 4,700,000 new cases of diabetes  
17          could be prevented at a cost savings of \$300 billion.

18          (3) Preventing diabetes and its complications  
19          can save money and lives. The average annual cost  
20          to treat someone with diabetes is \$16,752, which is  
21          2.3 times higher than average costs for someone who  
22          does not have diabetes. The United States spends  
23          \$327 billion per year on costs associated with diabe-  
24          tes, with government insurance including Medicare  
25          covering over  $\frac{2}{3}$  of these costs.

1           (4) Diabetes is unique because its complications  
2           and their associated health care costs are often pre-  
3           ventable with currently available medical treatment  
4           and lifestyle changes.

5           (5) A recent systematic review conducted by the  
6           Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Evidence Anal-  
7           ysis Library concluded that randomized clinical  
8           trials involving medical nutrition therapy resulted in  
9           a significant decrease in waist circumference, fasting  
10          blood glucose, and two-hour post prandial blood glu-  
11          cose, which is graded as strong evidence of having  
12          a lower risk of developing type 2 diabetes. A second,  
13          independent systematic review of diabetes prevention  
14          using nutrition therapy conducted in Europe found  
15          that individuals who received the lifestyle interven-  
16          tions had a 47-percent reduced risk of developing  
17          type 2 diabetes.

18          (6) The Medicare program currently provides  
19          coverage for screening and identifying beneficiaries  
20          with pre-diabetes but does not provide adequate  
21          services to such beneficiaries to help them prevent or  
22          delay the onset of diabetes.

1 **SEC. 3. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF MEDICAL NUTRITION**  
 2 **THERAPY SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH PRE-**  
 3 **DIABETES AND RISK FACTORS FOR DEVEL-**  
 4 **OPING TYPE 2 DIABETES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861 of the Social Secu-  
 6 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (s)(2)(V), by striking “a bene-  
 8 ficiary with diabetes or a renal disease” and insert-  
 9 ing “an individual with diabetes, pre-diabetes (as de-  
 10 fined in subsection (yy)(4)), or a renal disease, or an  
 11 individual at risk for diabetes (as defined in sub-  
 12 section (yy)(2)),” in the matter preceding clause (i);  
 13 and

14 (2) in subsection (yy)—

15 (A) in the heading, by adding “; Pre-Dia-  
 16 betes” at the end; and

17 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
 18 paragraph:

19 “(4) The term ‘pre-diabetes’ means a condition of im-  
 20 paired fasting glucose or impaired glucose tolerance identi-  
 21 fied by a blood glucose level that is higher than normal,  
 22 but not so high as to indicate actual diabetes.”.

23 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 24 this section shall apply with respect to services furnished  
 25 on or after January 1, 2021.