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(Original Signature of Member)

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

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

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a budget-neutral two-year moratorium on certain medicare physician payment reductions for imaging services.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. PITTS 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 a budget-neutral two-year moratorium on certain medicare physician payment reductions for imaging services.

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 “Access to Medicare  
5 Imaging Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. BUDGET-NEUTRAL TWO-YEAR MORATORIUM ON**  
2 **CERTAIN MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT**  
3 **REDUCTIONS FOR IMAGING SERVICES.**

4 (a) MORATORIUM.—Subsections (b)(4)(A) and  
5 (c)(2)(B)(v)(II) of section 1848 of the Social Security Act  
6 (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4), as added by section 5102 of the  
7 Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, are each amended by strik-  
8 ing “2007” and inserting “2009”.

9 (b) BUDGET NEUTRALITY.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
11 provision of law (including subclause (II) of section  
12 1848(c)(2)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42  
13 U.S.C. 1395w-4(c)(2)(B)(ii)), for 2007 and for 2008  
14 the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall  
15 reduce the payment amounts otherwise provided  
16 under this part and part A (and not under parts C  
17 and D) in a manner so as to provide for a reduction  
18 in aggregate expenditures under this part and part  
19 A for each such year of an amount equivalent to the  
20 increase in expenditures under such section for such  
21 year that the Secretary estimates will result from  
22 the application of the amendments made by sub-  
23 section (a).

24 (2) NO EFFECT ON SUBSEQUENT PERIODS.—  
25 The reduction in payment effected under paragraph  
26 (1) for a year shall not apply to (or be taken into

1 account in) the computation of payment amounts for  
2 a subsequent year.

3 (c) GAO STUDY ON PATIENT ACCESS TO IMAGING  
4 SERVICES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of  
6 the United States shall conduct a comprehensive  
7 study on patient access and service issues relating to  
8 the availability and quality of imaging services in  
9 physician offices and freestanding clinics that would  
10 have resulted (but for subsection (a)) from payment  
11 changes made by the amendments made by section  
12 5102(b) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

13 (2) DETAILS.— Such study also shall  
14 examine—

15 (A) reductions in review application to  
16 multiple procedure reductions multiple proce-  
17 dures and additional reductions associated with  
18 changes in physician practice expense, with par-  
19 ticular attention to rural and medically under-  
20 served areas; and

21 (B) the appropriateness of using the hos-  
22 pital outpatient department prospective pay-  
23 ment system methodology to set reimbursement  
24 under the medicare program for all imaging  
25 services, regardless of site of service.

1           (3) REPORT.—Not later than July 31, 2008,  
2           the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress  
3           and the Secretary of Health and Human Services a  
4           report on the study under this subsection and shall  
5           include in the report such recommendations regard-  
6           ing extending the moratorium imposed under the  
7           amendments made by subsection (a) or such other  
8           changes in medicare reimbursement for imaging  
9           services as the Comptroller General deems appro-  
10          prium.