

HR 6030

Health Care Access and Rural Equity (H-CARE) Act of 2006

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Sep 6, 2006

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Sep 25, 2006)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/6030>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Walden, Greg [R-OR-2]

Party: Republican • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (85 total)

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| Rep. Michaud, Michael H. [D-ME-2] | D · ME | | Sep 6, 2006 |
| Rep. Moran, Jerry [R-KS-1] | R · KS | | Sep 6, 2006 |
| Rep. Ney, Robert W. [R-OH-18] | R · OH | | Sep 6, 2006 |
| Rep. Nussle, Jim [R-IA-1] | R · IA | | Sep 6, 2006 |
| Rep. Oberstar, James L. [D-MN-8] | D · MN | | Sep 6, 2006 |
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| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
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| Rep. Simpson, Michael K. [R-ID-2] | R · ID | | Sep 6, 2006 |
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| Rep. Stupak, Bart [D-MI-1] | D · MI | | Sep 6, 2006 |
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| Rep. Tanner, John S. [D-TN-8] | D · TN | | Sep 6, 2006 |
| Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-1] | D · CA | | Sep 6, 2006 |
| Rep. Udall, Tom [D-NM-3] | D · NM | | Sep 6, 2006 |
| Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. [R-AL-4] | R · AL | | Sep 12, 2006 |
| Rep. Boustany, Charles W., Jr. [R-LA-7] | R · LA | | Sep 12, 2006 |
| Rep. Gordon, Bart [D-TN-6] | D · TN | | Sep 12, 2006 |
| Rep. Johnson, Timothy V. [R-IL-15] | R · IL | | Sep 12, 2006 |
| Rep. Kanjorski, Paul E. [D-PA-11] | D · PA | | Sep 12, 2006 |
| Rep. Osborne, Tom [R-NE-3] | R · NE | | Sep 12, 2006 |
| Rep. Rehberg, Dennis R. [R-MT-At Large] | R · MT | | Sep 12, 2006 |
| Rep. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS-1] | R · MS | | Sep 12, 2006 |
| Rep. Camp, Dave [R-MI-4] | R · MI | | Sep 13, 2006 |
| Rep. Evans, Lane [D-IL-17] | D · IL | | Sep 13, 2006 |
| Rep. Gilchrest, Wayne T. [R-MD-1] | R · MD | | Sep 13, 2006 |
| Rep. Hooley, Darlene [D-OR-5] | D · OR | | Sep 13, 2006 |
| Rep. Boswell, Leonard L. [D-IA-3] | D · IA | | Sep 21, 2006 |
| Rep. Conaway, K. Michael [R-TX-11] | R · TX | | Sep 21, 2006 |
| Rep. Davis, Artur [D-AL-7] | D · AL | | Sep 21, 2006 |
| Rep. King, Steve [R-IA-5] | R · IA | | Sep 21, 2006 |
| Rep. LaHood, Ray [R-IL-18] | R · IL | | Sep 21, 2006 |
| Rep. Mollohan, Alan B. [D-WV-1] | D · WV | | Sep 21, 2006 |
| Rep. Spratt, John M., Jr. [D-SC-5] | D · SC | | Sep 21, 2006 |
| Rep. Wilson, Heather [R-NM-1] | R · NM | | Sep 21, 2006 |
| Rep. Alexander, Rodney [R-LA-5] | R · LA | | Sep 28, 2006 |
| Rep. Frank, Barney [D-MA-4] | D · MA | | Sep 28, 2006 |
| Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6] | R · VA | | Sep 28, 2006 |
| Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2] | D · WA | | Sep 28, 2006 |

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------|-------------|
| Rep. Capps, Lois [D-CA-23] | D · CA | | Dec 5, 2006 |
| Rep. Duncan, John J., Jr. [R-TN-2] | R · TN | | Dec 5, 2006 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Energy and Commerce Committee | House | Referred to | Sep 25, 2006 |
| Ways and Means Committee | House | Referred To | Sep 6, 2006 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Sep 6, 2006)

Health Care Access and Rural Equity (H-CARE) Act of 2006 - Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act with respect to: (1) the Medicare disproportionate share hospital (DSH) adjustment for rural hospitals; (2); payment for clinical laboratory tests furnished by critical access hospitals; (3) rebasing for sole community hospitals; (4) establishment of a rural community hospital program; (5) extension of the Medicare rural hospital hold harmless provision under the prospective payment system (PPS) for hospital outpatient department services; (6) coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under Medicare part B (Supplementary Medical Insurance); (7) permanent treatment of certain physician pathology services under Medicare; (8) extension of the Medicare incentive payment program for a physician scarcity area; (9) proportional representation of interests of rural areas on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; and (10) additional payments for providers furnishing ambulance services in rural areas and prompt payment of clean claims by Medicare prescription drug plans and MedicareAdvantage-Prescription Drug (MA-PD) plans under the Medicare part D (Voluntary Prescription Drug Benefit Program).

Amends the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to extend: (1) certain Medicare hospital wage index reclassifications and disregarding hospital reclassifications for purposes of group reclassifications; (2) Medicare reasonable costs payments for certain clinical diagnostic laboratory tests furnished to hospital patients in certain rural areas; and (3) the temporary Medicare payment increase for home health services furnished in a rural area.

Amends the Public Health Service Act to: (1) authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to eligible entities in rural areas for purchase and enhanced utilization of qualified health information technology systems; (2) establish a capital infrastructure revolving loan program and a Rural Health Quality Advisory Commission; and (3) provide for delta rural disparities and health systems development.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 25, 2006:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Sep 6, 2006:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 6, 2006:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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