

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to codify the Panel of Health Advisors within the Congressional Budget Office, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. RICKETTS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to codify the Panel of Health Advisors within the Congressional Budget Office, and for other purposes.

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 “Healthy Equipping
5 And Lending Technical Help Panel Act” or the
6 “HEALTH Panel Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PANEL OF**
2 **HEALTH ADVISORS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Congressional
4 Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C.
5 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 **“SEC. 204. PANEL OF HEALTH ADVISORS.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Panel of Health Advisors
9 (in this section referred to as the ‘Panel’) shall be within
10 the Congressional Budget Office.

11 “(b) DUTIES AND PRIORITY TARGET AREAS.—

12 “(1) DUTIES.—The Panel shall—

13 “(A) provide technical and functional ex-
14 pertise and recommendations to the Congres-
15 sional Budget Office to improve the office’s
16 studies, analysis, and cost estimates related to
17 health and health care issues and policies;

18 “(B) meet at least once annually; and

19 “(C) issue an annual report to the chair
20 and ranking minority members of the Com-
21 mittee on the Budget of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives and the Committee on the Budget
23 of the Senate which—

24 “(i) details the work of the Panel and
25 includes such recommendations as have
26 been approved by a vote of at least 9 mem-

1 bers of the Panel and provided to the Con-
2 gressional Budget Office; and

3 “(ii) includes a description prepared
4 by the Director of the Congressional Budg-
5 et Office detailing how the office utilized
6 any such recommendations provided under
7 clause (i) and the extent to which any such
8 recommendations were integrated into the
9 office’s studies and cost estimates.

10 “(2) PRIORITY TARGET AREAS.—For the pur-
11 poses of this section, the Director of the Congres-
12 sional Budget Office, in consultation with the chairs
13 and ranking minority members of the Committee on
14 the Budget of the House of Representatives and the
15 Committee on the Budget of the Senate, as well as
16 members on the Panel, shall determine priorities to
17 address in meetings of the Panel, and the report de-
18 tailed under paragraph (1)(C). The Panel shall pro-
19 vide expertise and recommendations under para-
20 graph (1) with specific respect to the following
21 areas:

22 “(A) Non-economic and economic studies
23 on health and health care issues and policies
24 developed by the Congressional Budget Office.

1 “(B) Official cost estimates prepared by
2 the Congressional Budget Office for proposed
3 health care legislation.

4 “(C) Models developed and utilized by the
5 Congressional Budget Office to project non-eco-
6 nomic and economic impacts of health care pol-
7 icy changes and legislation.

8 “(D) Health care components of the Con-
9 gressional Budget Office’s annual Budget and
10 Economic Outlook publications, Federal Health
11 Subsidies for Health Insurance reports, Health
12 Insurance Coverage Projections, and other offi-
13 cial publications related to health and health
14 care by the Congressional Budget Office.

15 “(3) PUBLICATION.—The Director of the Con-
16 gressional Budget Office shall publish, on the Of-
17 fice’s public website, the annual report prepared pur-
18 suant to paragraph (1)(C).

19 “(4) ETHICAL DISCLOSURE; CONFIDEN-
20 TIALITY.—The Director of the Congressional Budget
21 Office may establish—

22 “(A) a system for public disclosure by
23 members of the Panel related to potential con-
24 flicts of interest relating to such members; and

1 “(B) confidentiality agreements with mem-
2 bers of the Panel to protect information ob-
3 tained by the Government on a confidential
4 basis to inform official work products and con-
5 fidential congressional requests for analytical
6 reports and budgetary scoring estimates.

7 “(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

8 “(1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The mem-
9 bership of the Panel shall include 15 members ap-
10 pointed not later than 90 days after the date of the
11 enactment of this section, of which—

12 “(A) 3 members shall be appointed by the
13 chair of the Committee on the Budget of the
14 House of Representatives;

15 “(B) 3 members shall be appointed by the
16 ranking minority member of the Committee on
17 the Budget of the House of Representatives;

18 “(C) 3 members shall be appointed by the
19 chair of the Committee on the Budget of the
20 Senate;

21 “(D) 3 members shall be appointed by the
22 ranking minority member of the Committee on
23 the Budget of the Senate; and

24 “(E) 3 members shall be appointed by the
25 Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

1 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The membership of the
2 Panel shall aim to include, but not be limited to, in-
3 dividuals with national recognition for their expertise
4 in health finance and economics, actuarial science,
5 health facility management, life sciences and drug
6 development, investment in health care companies,
7 health plans and integrated delivery systems, reim-
8 bursement of health facilities, allopathic and osteo-
9 pathic physicians, and other providers of health serv-
10 ices, Medicare, Medicaid, and other related fields.

11 “(3) SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—
12 Members of the Panel shall serve as special Govern-
13 ment employees (as defined in section 202(a) of title
14 18, United States Code).

15 “(d) TERMS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The terms of the members
17 of the Panel shall be for 3 years, except that the Di-
18 rector of the Congressional Budget Office shall des-
19 ignate staggered terms of the members first ap-
20 pointed.

21 “(2) VACANCIES.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy in the
23 Panel shall be filled in the manner in which the
24 original appointment was made.

1 “(B) TERM OF MEMBER APPOINTED TO
2 FILL VACANCY.—Any member appointed to fill
3 a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the
4 term for which the member’s predecessor was
5 appointed shall be appointed only for the re-
6 mainder of that term, except that a member
7 may serve after the expiration of that member’s
8 term until a successor has taken office.

9 “(3) CHAIR; VICE CHAIR.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the
11 Congressional Budget Office shall designate a
12 member of the Panel, at the time of appoint-
13 ment of the member, as chair and a member as
14 vice chair for that term of appointment, except
15 that in the case of vacancy of the chair or vice
16 chair, the Director of the Congressional Budget
17 Office may designate another member for the
18 remainder of that member’s term.

19 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.— The chair and
20 vice chair shall be appointed by the Director of
21 the Congressional Budget Office—

22 “(i) after considering recommenda-
23 tions received from the chairs of the Com-
24 mittee on the Budget of the House of Rep-

1 representatives and the Committee on the
2 Budget of the Senate;

3 “(ii) without regard to political affli-
4 ation; and

5 “(iii) solely on the basis of their fit-
6 ness to perform their duties.

7 “(4) LIMITS.—Members of the Panel shall be
8 limited to two 3-year terms, for a total of not to ex-
9 ceed 6 years of service on the Panel. For purposes
10 of this paragraph, any year of service on the Panel
11 by a person appointed to fill a vacancy under para-
12 graph (2) shall be included in determining the num-
13 ber of years that such person has served on the
14 Panel.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
16 of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating
17 to section 203 the following:

“204. Panel of Health Advisors.”.