



Bill offers limited legal protection to Medicare, Medicaid providers

U.S. Rep. Tom Marino has introduced legislation that offers limited legal protection to Medicare and Medicaid providers who use electronic records.

HR3239, the Safeguarding Access For Every Medicare Patient Act, would ensure patient access to Medicare and Medicaid providers; reduce health care costs; guarantee incentives to providers to remain in the Medicare and Medicaid programs; and promote participation in health information technology.

Providers will eventually be required to participate in electronic recordkeeping or face a reduction in payments.

Marino said the bill offers incentive in the form of legal protection to providers who may be reluctant to remain in the Medicare and Medicaid programs due to low reimbursement rates which are constantly being targeted for further reductions.

HR3239 would create a system for reporting potential errors that occur when using electronic records without the threat of that information being used as an admission of guilt. It also prevents electronic records from

being used as an easy source for "fishing expeditions," while making sure that parties responsible for errors are held accountable. The proposal allows for providers who use electronic records to take remedial measures without having those actions be used to establish guilt; places time limits on the filing of lawsuits; and offers protection against libel and slander lawsuits.

"Many providers are reluctant to use electronic records because they believe the practice will make them more vulnerable to unnecessary legal action," Marino said.

Marino said HR3239 provides legal protection to providers while encouraging the use of health information technology which has been shown to reduce costs.

"Best of all, passage of this bill would require no new spending," Marino said.

This is the fourth bill Marino has introduced since taking office in January. His other legislation includes: HR 1779, the Federal Hiring Freeze Act; HR 1946, Preserving Our Hometown Pharmacies Act; and HR2492, the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act.



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SSG Earl Granville, of Carbondale, was presented the Civilian Marksmanship Program Patriot Award Oct. 20 at Carbondale City Hall by Rep. Marino. The award was established in 2009 as a tribute to our nation's veterans. The Civilian Marksmanship Program was founded by Teddy Roosevelt to improve the marksmanship skills of the Armed Forces. Attending the presentation from left: Rep. Marino; Margaret Granville, the recipient's mother; SSG Granville; and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Dennis Lord.

Last Week's Votes

Rep. Marino voted in favor of these bills this week. All passed the House of Representatives and are now headed to the Senate:

HR674: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities, and to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining eligibility for certain health-care-related programs.
PASSED: 405-16, Oct. 27

HR2576: Amends the Internal Revenue Code to include Social Security benefits that are excluded from gross income in the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining eligibility for the tax credit for coverage under a qualified health plan.

HR1904: Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act. Authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain federal land in Pinal County, Arizona, to Resolution Copper.

HR1160: South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act. Directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey the McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery in Richmond County, North Carolina, to the state of North Carolina to be used by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as a component of the fish and wildlife management program of the state.

HR320: Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial Act. Designates a memorial located at March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California, as the Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial, in honor of current and former members of the armed forces who have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

DID YOU KNOW...

► About The District?

About 54 percent of the 10th District residents live in a rural area.

► About the staff?

Rep. Marino has a full-time staff member dedicated to veterans issues.

► About Our Website?

You can follow all legislation that Rep. Marino is sponsoring and co-sponsoring by [clicking here.](#)

Tom's Scrapbook

Clockwise from right: Visit to the Wyoming County Fair; meeting employees at International Paper, Mount Carmel; a tour of Milton Regional Sewer Authority operations; and visit to ConAgra Foods, Milton.



