

STABILIZING MEDICARE ACCESS TO REHABILITATION AND THERAPY ACT



What is it?
(H.R. 5536)

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THE BILL

The “Stabilizing Medicare Access to Rehabilitation and Therapy Act” or SMART Act (H.R. 5536) was introduced by Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL) and Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO) in the United States House of Representatives.

“To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise certain payment rules for outpatient physical therapy and outpatient occupational therapy furnished in rural areas and medically underserved areas, and for other purposes.”

SO WHAT?

- Legislation would delay and mitigate the impact of a 15% cut to Medicare Part B services provided by occupational therapy assistants, set to begin in January 2022.
- These cuts don't just impact OTAs but the accessibility to OT services in rural areas

3 THINGS SMART WILL DO

1. Provides an exemption to the 15% payment differential for rural and underserved areas.

Rural and underserved areas tend to rely more heavily on occupational therapy assistants to provide access to occupational therapy services.



3 THINGS SMART WILL DO

2. Reduce the burden of direct supervision of therapy assistants in private practice settings

Medicare requires “general supervision” of OTAs in all settings except for private practice—placing an unnecessary burden on small therapy private practices, and failing to recognize the expertise of occupational therapy assistants.

3 THINGS SMART WILL DO

3. Delays the payment differential to January 1, 2023.

The pandemic has shown us how essential OTAs are in healthcare, now is not the time to implement a cut of this magnitude for our healthcare workers!



IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

**1. Write a letter to your
representatives/ call your congress
member!**

<https://tinyurl.com/writeSMART2022>

2. Track the status of the bill

<https://tinyurl.com/trackSMART2022>