AMENDMENT
OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF NEW YORK

Add at the end the following new section:

SEC. 3. STUDY REGARDING THE EFFECTS OF CALCULATING
     MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PAYMENT RATES ON
     A REGIONAL AVERAGE OF MEDICARE FEE
     FOR SERVICE RATES.

     (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Centers
     for Medicare and Medicaid Services shall conduct a study
     to determine the potential effects of calculating Medicare
     Advantage payment rates on a more aggregated geo-
     graphic basis (such as metropolitan statistical areas or
     other regional delineations) rather than using county
     boundaries. In conducting such study, the Administrator
     shall consider the effect of such alternative geographic
     basis on the following:

     (1) The quality of care received by Medicare
     Advantage enrollees.

     (2) The networks of Medicare Advantage plans,
     including any implications for providers contracting
     with Medicare Advantage plans.

     (3) The predictability of benchmark amounts
     for Medicare advantage plans.
(b) CONSULTATIONS.—In conducting the study, the Administrator shall consult with the following:

1. Experts in health care financing.
2. Representatives of foundations and other nonprofit entities that have conducted or supported research on Medicare financing issues.
3. Representatives from Medicare Advantage plans.
4. Such other entities or people as determined by the Secretary.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Congress on the study conducted under this section. The report shall contain a detailed statement of findings and conclusions of the study, together with its recommendations for such legislation and administrative actions as the Administrator considers appropriate.