

AMENDMENT**OFFERED BY MR. LAMALFA OF CALIFORNIA**

At the end of title II of division C, add the following:

1 **SEC. _____. PROVIDING FOR THE TREATMENT OF CER-**
2 **TAIN HOSPITALS AS CRITICAL ACCESS HOS-**
3 **PITALS UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.**

4 Section 1820(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
5 1395i-4(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following
6 new paragraph:

7 “(4) CONTINUATION OF CAH STATUS FOR CER-
8 TAIN FACILITIES.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A facility described in
10 subparagraph (B) that does not meet the dis-
11 tance requirement under subsection
12 (c)(2)(B)(i)(I) (and was not certified by the
13 State as being a necessary provider of health
14 care services to residents in the area under sub-
15 section (c)(2)(B)(i)(II)) shall be deemed to have
16 been certified by the Secretary under subsection
17 (e) as a critical access hospital so long as such
18 facility is otherwise eligible to be designated by

1 the State as a critical access hospital under
2 subsection (c).

3 “(B) FACILITY DESCRIBED.—For purposes
4 of subparagraph (A), a facility described in this
5 subparagraph is a facility that—

6 “(i) was designated as a critical ac-
7 cess hospital before January 1, 2002;

8 “(ii) as of December 31, 2024, was
9 certified by the Secretary under subsection
10 (e) as a critical access hospital; and

11 “(iii) as of January 1, 2025, was lo-
12 cated in a county (or equivalent unit of
13 local government) in which no other hos-
14 pital, critical access hospital, or rural
15 emergency hospital was located.”.

