

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To ensure access to screening mammography services.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Ms. AYOTTE) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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## **A BILL**

To ensure access to screening mammography services.

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 “Protecting Access to  
5 Lifesaving Screenings Act” or the “PALS Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENSURING ACCESS TO SCREENING MAMMOGRAPHY**  
7 **SERVICES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective during the period begin-  
9 ning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending Jan-  
10 uary 1, 2018, any provision of law that refers (including  
11 through cross-reference to another provision of law) to the

1 current recommendations of the United States Preventive  
2 Services Task Force with respect to breast cancer screen-  
3 ing, mammography, and prevention shall be administered  
4 by the Secretary involved as if—

5 (1) such reference to such current recommenda-  
6 tions were a reference to the recommendations of  
7 such Task Force with respect to breast cancer  
8 screening, mammography, and prevention last issued  
9 before 2009; and

10 (2) such recommendations last issued before  
11 2009 applied to any screening mammography modal-  
12 ity under section 1861(jj) of the Social Security Act  
13 (42 U.S.C. 1395x(jj)).

14 (b) CODIFICATION OF CURRENT MEDICARE COV-  
15 ERAGE AND PAYMENT POLICIES.—

16 (1) DEFINITION.—Section 1861(jj) of the So-  
17 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(jj)) is amended  
18 by inserting “, including any digital modality of such  
19 a procedure,” after “radiologic procedure”.

20 (2) COINSURANCE.—Section 1833(a)(1)(Y) of  
21 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)(Y)) is amended by  
22 inserting “or are services described in section  
23 1861(jj)” after “population”.

24 (3) FREQUENCY.—Section 1834(c)(2)(B)(ii) of  
25 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(c)(2)(B)(ii)) is amended

1 by inserting before the period at the end the fol-  
2 lowing: “for women described only in clause (i) or  
3 (ii) of subparagraph (A)”.

4 (c) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

5 (1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the  
6 United States shall conduct a study on the meth-  
7 odologies and processes by which the United States  
8 Preventive Services Task Force develops rec-  
9 ommendations regarding preventive services, includ-  
10 ing the transparency of such methodologies and  
11 processes, the engagement of stakeholders in such  
12 methodologies and processes, the responses of the  
13 Task Force to comments from stakeholders regard-  
14 ing draft research plans, draft evidence reviews, and  
15 draft recommendations, and the propriety of the  
16 data and other information on which the Task Force  
17 relies in developing a recommendation regarding a  
18 preventive service.

19 (2) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the  
20 United States shall submit to the Secretary of  
21 Health and Human Services and to the appropriate  
22 committees of Congress, not later than 2 years after  
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, a report on  
24 the results of the study conducted under paragraph  
25 (1), including any recommendations for administra-

1       tive or legislative changes the Comptroller General  
2       determines necessary or appropriate to improve the  
3       methodologies and processes by which the United  
4       States Preventive Services Task Force develops rec-  
5       ommendations regarding preventive services.