



# WAYS AND MEANS

## Stop Excessive Narcotics in our Retirement (SENIOR) Communities Protection Act of 2018 H.R. 5676

**Background:** Section 1862(o) of the Social Security Act grants the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) the authority to suspend payments to a provider or supplier pending an investigation of a credible allegation of fraud against the provider or supplier. The Secretary is required to consult with the Inspector General of HHS in determining whether there is a credible allegation of fraud against a provider of services or a supplier.

**Summary:** This bill extends the authority of Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans, in the same manner already provided to HHS under Medicare Fee-for-Service, to suspend payments pending credible allegations of fraud. A fraud hotline tip is excluded from being considered as sufficient evidence for a credible allegation of fraud unless further evidence is provided.