

BILL WOULD PROVIDE RELIEF FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Washington – Congressman John W. Olver has joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts D

"The BBA correction that was passed last year clearly did not go far enough in help

Under the terms of the BBA, Medicare and Medicaid spending were reduced respe

"This legislation is an opportunity to provide much needed relief for hospitals, home

The BBRA-2000 also includes a bill authored by Congressman Olver that will perm

"Nurse practitioners are an essential component of comprehensive health care, an

The main provisions of the legislation are as follows:

1. HOSPITALS

- Fully restores annual increases in federal payments to keep up with increases in hospi
- Prevents further reductions in payment rates for teaching hospitals.
- Provides additional relief to rural hospitals and hospitals with a disproportionate share

2. HOME HEALTH CARE

- Repeals the scheduled 15 percent cut in home health payments.
- Provides \$500 million to care for "outlier," the sickest and most costly patients.

- Increases payments for medical equipment.

3. NURSING HOMES

- The BBRA-2000 will allow nursing home payments to keep up with increases in costs for

4. RURAL HEALTH

- Gives assistance for rural home health agencies.
- Provides loan funds for small rural facilities.
- Gives additional assistance to rural clinics and other rural providers.

5. MEDICARE HMOS

- Ensures appropriate payments are made to Medicare HMOs by increasing the Medicare
- Targets increases in payments where Medicare reimbursement rates are lower.
- Assists those who have lost Medicare HMOs in their area by strengthening traditional

6. OTHER PROVISIONS

- Streamlines billing procedures for nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists and

- Gives states grants to develop home and community based services.
- Creates a new payment system for community health centers.

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