



The Community Mental Health and Addiction Safety Net Equity Act of 2010 (H.R. 5636)

Section-by-Section Summary

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

Names the legislation the “Community Mental Health and Addiction Safety Net Equity Act of 2010.”

SEC. 2. FEDERALLY QUALIFIED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTERS.

Creates criteria for Federally Qualified Behavioral Health Centers (FQBHCs), as entities designed to serve individuals with serious mental illnesses and addiction disorders. Requires FQBHCs to provide intensive, person-centered, multidisciplinary services that include evidence-based screening and assessment, diagnostic services, treatment, and prevention and wellness services.

Mandates that FQBHCs set up and maintain linkages with other essential community health providers and social services agencies. Directs the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to issue regulations and establish a process for certifying entities as FQBHCs.

SEC. 3. MEDICAID COVERAGE AND PAYMENT FOR FEDERALLY QUALIFIED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTERS.

Extends to FQBHCs the same Prospective Payment System reimbursement as provided to Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers. Gives states the authority to approve alternative payment methodologies for reimbursing FQBHCs.

Requires states to include services provided by FQBHCs in their Medicaid state plans (just as they are currently required to do so for Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers).

SEC. 4. MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SAFETY NET STUDIES.

Tasks the Institute of Medicine with performing two studies:

1. A study examining the combined paperwork burden resulting from overlapping licensing, certification, and reporting requirements from federal, state, and local funding sources.
 - o This Report will estimate the combined costs associated with complying with these requirements, and will make recommendations for a uniform reporting methodology.
2. A study examining current compensation levels of professionals and paraprofessional personnel employed by behavioral health centers as compared to those employed by comparable safety net providers and relevant private sector health-care employees.