

- Begin by talking about what sickle cell disease (SCD) is, who it impacts, etc. Share a story about your experience treating individuals with SCD; ask others in your group to share stories.
- This bipartisan legislation creates a demonstration program in up to 10 states to improve access to comprehensive, high-quality, outpatient care for individuals with SCD enrolled in Medicaid, with a focus on young adults and pregnant women.
- Currently, many individuals living with SCD face barriers to appropriate, quality care such as a shortage of specialized providers, a lack of coordination among health care providers, and challenges relating to health insurance cost and coverage.
- A Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) report found that approximately 50% of individuals living with SCD in the United States are covered by Medicaid.
- The bill seeks to bolster access to primary and preventive services in participating states

When selecting states for participation in the demonstration program, priority will be given to those states that also participate in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Sickle Cell Data Collection program or precursor programs, as well as states with a high prevalence of individuals living with SCD.

- If passed, the legislation would establish full federal reimbursement for services and care coordination provided under the demonstration program.
  - We believe the demo will lead to fewer emergency department visits and inpatient hospital stays, providing savings to the states that participate.
- - Summarize what you are asking for:
  
  - Ask the person you are meeting with if he/she has any questions.
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