

Summary from the [BHIT Coalition](#)

BHIT Now Act, H.R. 7427

Behavioral health providers need vital technology to support coordinated, high-value care

The Behavioral Health Information Technologies (BHIT) Now Act was introduced on April 6, 2022, by Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA-06), with lead co-sponsors **Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS-03)**, **Rep. Ron Estes (R-KS-04)** and Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK-02). The BHIT Now Act is legislation to improve the coordination of mental and physical health care by supporting behavioral health providers to adopt health IT systems.

Electronic Health Records (EHRs) are an essential part of our modern healthcare system. However, mental health and substance use disorder providers have been historically left out of previous federal funding efforts to promote the adoption and meaningful use of electronic health records and supporting technology. The BHIT Now Act seeks to deliver long overdue targeted funding that will ensure psychologists, clinical and social workers, as well as Community Mental Health Centers, psychiatric hospitals, and residential treatment centers can invest in the technology needed to support integrated, whole-person care.

Rep. Matsui originally co-authored H.R. 3331, a bill to promote testing of incentive payments for behavioral health providers to adopt and use certified electronic health record technology. In 2018, Congress included this legislation as Section 6001 of the SUPPORT Act (PL 115-231), which authorized a Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMMI) demonstration providing health IT incentives. However, CMMI has yet to develop a pilot to implement the demonstration.

[The Bipartisan Policy Center](#), the [United States of Care](#), and the [Medicaid and CHIP Payment Access Commission \(MACPAC\)](#) have all provided recommendations for CMMI to test a behavioral health EHR incentive payments model to strengthen the integration of behavioral and physical health services.

The BHIT Now Act finances the aforementioned model. The BHIT Now Act provides \$250 million total over three fiscal years (FY23-25) to finance behavioral health IT adoption through the CMS Innovation Center (CMMI). The legislation also directs the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to develop voluntary behavioral health IT standards.

Full text of the bill is available [HERE](#).