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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To prohibit the inclusion of mandatory predispute arbitration clauses and clauses limiting class action lawsuits in health insurance contracts.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. PORTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To prohibit the inclusion of mandatory predispute arbitration clauses and clauses limiting class action lawsuits in health insurance contracts.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Justice for Patients
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON MANDATORY PREDISPUTE ARBI-**
2 **TRATION AND LIMITATIONS ON CLASS AC-**
3 **TION LAWSUITS.**

4 (a) PHSA.—Part D of title XXVII of the Public
5 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–111 et seq.) is
6 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 2799A–11. PROHIBITION ON INCLUSION OF CERTAIN**
8 **REQUIREMENTS IN HEALTH INSURANCE**
9 **CONTRACTS.**

10 “(a) PROHIBITION ON MANDATORY PREDISPUTE AR-
11 BITRATION.—A group health plan and group or individual
12 health insurance coverage shall not include any predispute
13 arbitration clause that requires the arbitration of claims
14 under such plan or coverage.

15 “(b) PROHIBITION ON LIMITATION OF CLASS AC-
16 TIONS.—A group health plan and group or individual
17 health insurance coverage shall not include any limitation
18 on the ability of an enrollee of such plan or coverage to
19 engage in a class action lawsuit relating to the administra-
20 tion of such plan or coverage.

21 “(c) APPLICABILITY.—An issue as to whether this
22 section applies with respect to a dispute shall be deter-
23 mined under Federal law. The applicability of this section
24 to an agreement to arbitrate and the validity and enforce-
25 ability of an agreement to which this section applies shall
26 be determined by a court, rather than an arbitrator, irre-

1 spective of whether the party resisting arbitration chal-
2 lenges the arbitration agreement specifically or in conjunc-
3 tion with other terms of the contract containing such
4 agreement, and irrespective of whether the agreement pur-
5 ports to delegate such determinations to an arbitrator.”.

6 (b) ERISA.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part 7 of sub-
8 title B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income
9 Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1185 et seq.) is
10 amended by adding at the end the following new sec-
11 tion:

12 **“SEC. 726. PROHIBITION ON INCLUSION OF CERTAIN RE-**
13 **QUIREMENTS IN HEALTH INSURANCE CON-**
14 **TRACTS.**

15 “(a) PROHIBITION ON MANDATORY PREDISPUTE AR-
16 BITRATION.—A group health plan or a health insurance
17 issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall not
18 include any predispute arbitration clause that requires the
19 arbitration of claims under such plan or coverage.

20 “(b) PROHIBITION ON LIMITATION OF CLASS AC-
21 TIONS.—A group health plan or a health insurance issuer
22 offering group health insurance coverage shall not include
23 any limitation on the ability of an enrollee of such cov-
24 erage to engage in a class action lawsuit relating to the
25 administration of such plan or coverage.

1 predispute arbitration clause that requires the arbitration
2 of claims under such plan.

3 “(b) PROHIBITION ON LIMITATION OF CLASS AC-
4 TIONS.—A group health plan shall not include any limita-
5 tion on the ability of an enrollee of such plan to engage
6 in a class action lawsuit relating to the administration of
7 such plan.

8 “(c) APPLICABILITY.—An issue as to whether this
9 section applies with respect to a dispute shall be deter-
10 mined under Federal law. The applicability of this section
11 to an agreement to arbitrate and the validity and enforce-
12 ability of an agreement to which this section applies shall
13 be determined by a court, rather than an arbitrator, irre-
14 spective of whether the party resisting arbitration chal-
15 lenges the arbitration agreement specifically or in conjunc-
16 tion with other terms of the contract containing such
17 agreement, and irrespective of whether the agreement pur-
18 ports to delegate such determinations to an arbitrator.”.

19 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
20 tions for such subchapter is amended by adding at
21 the end the following new item:

“Sec. 9826. Prohibition on inclusion of certain requirements in health insur-
ance contracts.”.