

Arrington Floats Site Neutral To Offset National Security Supplemental

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House Budget Chair Jodey Arrington (R-TX) during a [Rules Committee markup Thursday \(April 18\)](#) floated enacting site neutral payments in Medicare to pay for the \$95 billion national security supplemental bill and reduce the deficit by an additional \$50 billion.

Arrington's amendment, which did not advance, comes a day after Rules Chair Michael Burgess (R-TX) pushed site neutral pay as a way to stabilize doctor pay and lower health costs across the board during an [Energy & Commerce health subcommittee hearing](#) where he also grilled HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on the lack of site neutral policies in the White House fiscal 2025 budget.

In proposing the amendment, which exempts hospitals in rural areas from the site neutral requirements, Arrington also stressed the historical bipartisan support as well as an opinion piece by former Trump and Obama HHS Secretaries Alex Azar and Kathleen Sebelius out Thursday that also calls on Congress to enact site neutral pay policies.

"It seems pretty straightforward that we could offer up something that not only not only would pay for this entire security package and put a down payment of \$50 billion to reduce the deficit that is exploding, but would also address our broken health care system," Arrington said. "This is a 'winner winner; chicken dinner,' as we say back in Lubbock America." -- Amy Lotven (alotven@iwpnews.com)