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## HR 597

Patient Protection Act

**Congress:** 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Feb 5, 2003

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations. (Mar 3, 2003)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/597>

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### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Norwood, Charles W. [R-GA-9]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** GA • **Chamber:** House

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### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

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### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 3, 2003
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 26, 2003
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 20, 2003

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### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Health

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### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## Summary (as of Feb 5, 2003)

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Patient Protection Act - Amends the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code with respect to health care coverage.

Requires group health plans and health insurance issuers providing health insurance coverage to have approved utilization review programs, claims procedures, and appeal procedures concerning claims denials.

Sets forth provisions concerning group health plans and health insurers and the provision of certain advice and care, including: (1) emergency care; (2) obstetric and gynecological care; (3) specialists care; (4) prescription drugs; (5) participation in approved clinical trials; and (6) health plan information.

Restricts interference by health plans and insurers with the doctor-patient relationship.

Prohibits health plans and insurers from discriminating against a licensed health care professional with respect to participation or indemnification.

Expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) men and women battling life-threatening, deadly diseases, including advanced breast or ovarian cancer, should have the opportunity to participate in a federally approved or funded clinical trial; (2) a child battling a rare cancer should be allowed to go to a cancer center capable of providing high quality care for that disease; and (3) every patient who is denied care by a health maintenance organization or other health insurance company should have a fair, speedy and impartial appeal to a review organization that has not been selected by the health plan.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Mar 3, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations.
- **Feb 26, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Feb 20, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Feb 5, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 5, 2003:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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