

HR 1539

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the responsibilities of a pharmacy when a pharmacist employed by the pharmacy refuses to fill a valid prescription for a drug on the basis of religious beliefs or moral convictions, and for other purposes.

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Apr 8, 2005

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Apr 22, 2005)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/1539>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. McCarthy, Carolyn [D-NY-4]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 22, 2005

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 HR 1652	Related bill	May 13, 2005: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
109 S 809	Related bill	Apr 14, 2005: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (text of measure as introduced: CR S3685-3686)

Summary (as of Apr 8, 2005)

Amends the Public Health Service Act to prohibit a pharmacy from receiving a prescription in interstate commerce unless it: (1) ensures that a prescription that is not filled due to a refusal by a pharmacist on the basis of religious beliefs or moral convictions is filled by another pharmacist employed by the pharmacy within four hours of such refusal; and (2) does not employ any pharmacist who refuses to return an unfilled prescription to the patient or transfer an unfilled prescription to another pharmacy with the intent to prevent a patient from filling a valid prescription for a drug.

Sets forth penalties for violations. Allows a civil action against a pharmacy for a violation of this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 22, 2005:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Apr 8, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 8, 2005:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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