

## S 1042

Medicare Patient Empowerment Act

**Congress:** 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** May 23, 2011

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (May 23, 2011)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/1042>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** AK • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. DeMint, Jim [R-SC]	R · SC		May 26, 2011
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Nov 13, 2012

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 23, 2011

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Health

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 1700	Identical bill	<b>May 6, 2011:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

## Summary (as of May 23, 2011)

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Medicare Patient Empowerment Act - Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to allow any Medicare beneficiary to enter into a contract with a non-participating (as well as with a participating) physician or practitioner for any item or service covered by Medicare. Allows such beneficiaries to submit a claim for Medicare payment in the amount that would otherwise apply if the claim had been filed by a participating physician or practitioner in the payment area where the physician or practitioner covered by the contract resides.

Requires a Medicare beneficiary to agree in writing in such a contract to: (1) pay the physician or practitioner for a Medicare-covered item or service; and (2) submit (in lieu of the physician or practitioner) a claim for Medicare payment. Allows a beneficiary, however, to negotiate, as a term of the contract, for the physician or practitioner to file such claims on the beneficiary's behalf.

Preempts state laws from limiting the amount of charges for physician and practitioner services for which Medicare payment is made.

## Actions Timeline

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- **May 23, 2011:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 23, 2011:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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