

S 1415

Access to Birth Control Act

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jul 26, 2011

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Jul 26, 2011)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/1415>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]

Party: Democratic • State: NJ • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 26, 2011
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jul 26, 2011
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 26, 2011
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jul 26, 2011
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 26, 2011
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 26, 2011
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jul 26, 2011
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jul 26, 2011
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jul 26, 2011
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jul 26, 2011
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jul 26, 2011
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 26, 2011

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 26, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 2659	Identical bill	Aug 1, 2011: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Access to Birth Control Act - Amends the Public Health Service Act to require pharmacies to comply with certain rules related to contraceptives, including: (1) providing a customer a contraceptive without delay if it is in stock; (2) immediately informing a customer if the contraceptive is not in stock and either transferring the prescription to a pharmacy that has the contraceptive in stock or expediting the ordering of the contraceptive and notifying the customer when it arrives, based on customer preference, except for pharmacies that do not ordinarily stock contraceptives in the normal course of business; and (3) ensuring that pharmacy employees do not take certain actions relating to a request for contraception, including intimidating, threatening, or harassing customers, interfering with or obstructing the delivery of services, intentionally misrepresenting or deceiving customers about the availability of contraception or its mechanism of action, breaching or threatening to breach medical confidentiality, or refusing to return a valid, lawful prescription.

Provides that a pharmacy is not prohibited from refusing to provide a contraceptive to a customer if: (1) it is unlawful to dispense the contraceptive to the customer without a valid, lawful prescription and no such prescription is presented; (2) the customer is unable to pay for the contraceptive; or (3) the employee of the pharmacy refuses to provide the contraceptive on the basis of a professional clinical judgment.

Provides that this Act does not preempt state law or any professional obligation of a state board that provides greater protections for customers.

Sets forth civil penalties and establishes a a private cause of action for violations of this Act.

---

### **Actions Timeline**

- **Jul 26, 2011:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 26, 2011:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.