

## S 1467

Respect for Rights of Conscience Act of 2011

**Congress:** 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Aug 2, 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. (Aug 2, 2011)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/1467>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]

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

**Cosponsors** (37 total)

<b>Cosponsor</b>	<b>Party / State</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Date Joined</b>
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		Aug 2, 2011
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Aug 2, 2011
Sen. Johanns, Mike [R-NE]	R · NE		Sep 6, 2011
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Sep 6, 2011
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Sep 6, 2011
Sen. Coats, Daniel [R-IN]	R · IN		Sep 7, 2011
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Sep 9, 2011
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Sep 12, 2011
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Sep 14, 2011
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Oct 5, 2011
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Oct 5, 2011
Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]	R · NC		Oct 5, 2011
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Oct 5, 2011
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Oct 5, 2011
Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]	R · WY		Oct 5, 2011
Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]	R · UT		Oct 5, 2011
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Oct 5, 2011
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Oct 5, 2011
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		Oct 5, 2011
Sen. Coburn, Tom [R-OK]	R · OK		Oct 17, 2011
Sen. Nelson, Ben [D-NE]	D · NE		Oct 19, 2011
Sen. Toomey, Patrick [R-PA]	R · PA		Oct 20, 2011
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Oct 31, 2011
Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA]	R · LA		Jan 26, 2012
Sen. Chambliss, Saxby [R-GA]	R · GA		Jan 31, 2012
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Feb 1, 2012
Sen. Lugar, Richard G. [R-IN]	R · IN		Feb 1, 2012
Sen. McConnell, Mitch [R-KY]	R · KY		Feb 1, 2012
Sen. Corker, Bob [R-TN]	R · TN		Feb 7, 2012
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Feb 7, 2012
Sen. Kyl, Jon [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Feb 7, 2012
Sen. Brown, Scott P. [R-MA]	R · MA		Feb 9, 2012
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Feb 9, 2012
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Feb 9, 2012
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Feb 9, 2012
Sen. Sessions, Jeff [R-AL]	R · AL		Feb 9, 2012
Sen. Hutchison, Kay Bailey [R-TX]	R · TX		Feb 14, 2012

**Committee Activity**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chamber</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Aug 2, 2011

## Subjects & Policy Tags

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### Policy Area:

Health

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 1179	Identical bill	<b>Mar 28, 2011:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

### Summary (as of Aug 2, 2011)

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Respect for Rights of Conscience Act of 2011 - Amends the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) to permit a health plan to decline coverage of specific items and services that are contrary to the religious beliefs of the sponsor, issuer, or other entity offering the plan or the purchaser or beneficiary (in the case of individual coverage) without penalty. Declares that such plans are still considered to: (1) be providing the essential health benefits package or preventive health services, (2) be a qualified health plan, and (3) have fulfilled other requirements under PPACA.

Declares that nothing in PPACA shall be construed to authorize a health plan to require a provider to provide, participate in, or refer for a specific item or service contrary to the provider's religious beliefs or moral convictions. Prohibits a health plan from being considered to have failed to provide timely or other access to items or services or to fulfill any other requirement under PPACA because it has respected the rights of conscience of such a provider.

Prohibits an American Health Benefit Exchange (a state health insurance exchange) or other official or entity acting in a governmental capacity in the course of implementing PPACA from discriminating against a health plan, plan sponsor, health care provider, or other person because of an unwillingness to provide coverage of, participate in, or refer for, specific items or services.

Creates a private cause of action for the protection of individual rights created under this Act. Authorizes any person or entity to assert a violation of this Act as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding.

Designates the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to receive and investigate complaints of discrimination based on this Act.

Makes this Act effective as if it were included in PPACA.

### Actions Timeline

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- **Aug 2, 2011:** Introduced in Senate
- **Aug 2, 2011:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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