

## S 1204

### Health Care Conscience Rights Act

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Jun 20, 2013

**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. (Jun 20, 2013)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/1204>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Coburn, Tom [R-OK]

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

### Cosponsors (21 total)

| Cosponsor                    | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]     | R · NE        |      | Jun 20, 2013 |
| Sen. Johanns, Mike [R-NE]    | R · NE        |      | Jun 24, 2013 |
| Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]     | R · KS        |      | Jun 26, 2013 |
| Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]       | R · MO        |      | Jun 27, 2013 |
| Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]       | R · KY        |      | Jun 27, 2013 |
| Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]      | R · SD        |      | Jul 10, 2013 |
| Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]     | R · KS        |      | Jul 16, 2013 |
| Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]    | R · NC        |      | Jul 23, 2013 |
| Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK] | R · OK        |      | Jul 29, 2013 |
| Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]     | R · FL        |      | Jul 30, 2013 |
| Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]    | R · NH        |      | Jul 31, 2013 |
| Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY] | R · WY        |      | Sep 9, 2013  |
| Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]  | R · SC        |      | Sep 12, 2013 |
| Sen. Sessions, Jeff [R-AL]   | R · AL        |      | Sep 24, 2013 |
| Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]       | R · SC        |      | Sep 25, 2013 |
| Sen. Corker, Bob [R-TN]      | R · TN        |      | Jan 7, 2014  |
| Sen. Toomey, Patrick [R-PA]  | R · PA        |      | Jan 7, 2014  |
| Sen. Chambliss, Saxby [R-GA] | R · GA        |      | Jan 15, 2014 |
| Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]  | R · GA        |      | Jan 15, 2014 |
| Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]    | R · MS        |      | Feb 24, 2014 |
| Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]    | R · AR        |      | Mar 4, 2014  |

### Committee Activity

| Committee  | Chamber | Activity    | Date         |
|--|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee | Senate  | Referred To | Jun 20, 2013 |

## Subjects & Policy Tags

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### Policy Area:

Health

### Related Bills

| Bill       | Relationship   | Last Action   |
|------------|----------------|---|
| 113 HR 940 | Identical bill | Mar 12, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. |

### Summary (as of Jun 20, 2013)

Health Care Conscience Rights Act - Amends title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to declare that nothing in such title shall require an individual to purchase individual health insurance coverage that includes coverage of an abortion or other item or service to which the individual has a moral or religious objection, or prevent an issuer from offering or issuing, to that individual, individual coverage excluding such item or service.

Makes similar denials about requiring a sponsor to sponsor, purchase, or provide such coverage, or a health insurance issuer or group health plan sponsor to cover an abortion or other item or service to which the sponsor or issuer has a moral or religious objection.

Denies also that such title authorizes imposition of a tax, penalty, fee, fine, or other sanction, or imposition of coverage of such an item or service, in relation to health insurance coverage or a group health plan that excludes such an item or service.

Amends the Public Health Service Act to codify the prohibition against any action by the federal government and any state or local government receiving federal financial assistance to subject a health professional, a hospital, a provider-sponsored organization, a health maintenance organization, an accountable care organization, a health insurance plan, or any other kind of health care facility, organization, or plan to discrimination on the basis that the entity refuses to participate in abortion-related activities.

Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to designate the Director of the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to receive and investigate complaints alleging a violation of abortion discrimination prohibition.

Creates a cause of action for the Attorney General or any person or entity adversely affected to obtain equitable or legal relief for any violation of this abortion discrimination prohibition. Allows commencement of an action to be commenced and the granting of relief without a prerequisite pursuit of administrative remedies. Allows such an action against a federal or state governmental entity.

### Actions Timeline

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- Jun 20, 2013: Introduced in Senate
- Jun 20, 2013: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.