

## S 1522

### Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2013

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Sep 18, 2013

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sep 18, 2013)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/1522>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]

**Party:** Independent • **State:** VT • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Sep 18, 2013

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 18, 2013

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Health

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 3120	Identical bill	<b>Nov 6, 2013:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2012 - Amends titles XVIII (Medicare) and XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to cover dental services.

Increases the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for funding under Medicaid for dental services.

Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), acting through the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, to maintain a database containing information on each state regarding dental benefits available for adults enrolled in the state Medicaid program.

Amends the Public Health Service Act to establish, revise, and extend funding for grant programs for: (1) educating nondental medical and other professionals about oral health care; (2) providing dental services in hospital emergency rooms or in community settings; (3) providing scholarships and education loans for dental therapists and oral health professional students; (4) providing comprehensive oral health services to low-income individuals and individuals in underserved areas; (5) building, operating, or expanding dental clinics in schools; (6) funding research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent and manage oral health diseases; and (7) providing rural health clinics with mobile and portable, comprehensive dental services, including dentures, and outreach for senior-care facilities and facilities that provide federal health care and nutrition benefits for women and children.

Authorizes appropriations for community based dental residencies.

Amends the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to declare oral health services to be an essential health benefit.

Removes restrictions on the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide dental care to veterans (thereby requiring such care on the same basis as other VA-provided medical care and services). Authorizes the VA to carry out a demonstration program to train and employ alternative dental health care providers in order to increase access to dental health care services for veterans in rural and other underserved communities.

Authorizes the Secretary of Defense (DOD) to carry out a similar demonstration program to train and employ such providers in order to increase access to those dental services for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents who lack ready access to such services.

Authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to carry out a demonstration program to establish programs to train and employ alternative dental health care providers to increase access to dental health services for prisoners within the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

Allows dental services provided under the demonstration program to be administered by alternative dental health care providers and any other dental care providers who are licensed to provide clinical care, through telehealth-enabled collaboration and supervision.

Authorizes the Secretary of HHS, through the Indian Health Service (IHS), to carry out a demonstration program to establish programs to train and employ alternative dental health care providers to help eliminate oral health disparities and increase access to dental services through health programs operated by the IHS, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Urban Indian organizations.

Allows dental services provided under the demonstration program to be administered by alternative dental health care providers and any other dental care providers licensed to provide clinical care, through telehealth-enabled collaboration

and supervision.

Directs the Secretary of HHS to conduct a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of the expansion of dental service coverage pursuant to this Act, including whether it resulted in a reduction in total health care costs for individuals under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Directs the Comptroller General (GAO) to conduct a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of: (1) the implementation and utilization of expanded dental service coverage under this Act for individuals enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid, and (2) the demonstration programs authorized by this Act for the training and employment of alternative dental health care providers.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Sep 18, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 18, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.