

S 1696

Women's Health Protection Act of 2013

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Nov 13, 2013

Current Status: Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-844.

Latest Action: Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-844. (Jul 15, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/1696>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (35 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]	D · IA		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Nov 13, 2013
Sen. Begich, Mark [D-AK]	D · AK		Nov 14, 2013
Sen. Baucus, Max [D-MT]	D · MT		Nov 18, 2013
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jan 7, 2014
Sen. Walsh, John E. [D-MT]	D · MT		May 13, 2014
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Jul 7, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Jul 15, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 3471	Identical bill	Nov 15, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Women's Health Protection Act of 2013 - Makes the following limitations and requirements concerning abortion services unlawful and prohibits their imposition or application by any government:

- a requirement that a medical professional perform specific tests or follow specific medical procedures, unless generally required in the case of medically comparable procedures;
- a limitation on an abortion provider's ability to delegate tasks, other than one applicable to medically comparable procedures;
- a limitation on an abortion provider's ability to prescribe or dispense drugs based on her or his good-faith medical judgment, other than one generally applicable;
- a limitation on an abortion provider's ability to provide abortion services via telemedicine, other than one generally applicable;
- a requirement or limitation concerning the physical plant, equipment, staffing, or hospital transfer arrangements of facilities where abortions are performed, or the credentials, hospital privileges, or status of personnel at such facilities that is not otherwise imposed where medically comparable procedures are performed;
- a requirement that, prior to obtaining an abortion, a woman make medically unnecessary visits to the provider of abortion services or to any individual or entity that does not provide such services; and
- a requirement or limitation that prohibits or restricts medical training for abortion procedures, other than one generally applicable to medically comparable procedures.

Makes unlawful a measure or action that restricts the provision of abortion services, or the facilities that provide them, that is similar to any of those described above if it singles out abortion services or make abortion services more difficult to access and does not significantly advance women's health or the safety of abortion services.

Provides standards for the making of a *prima facie* case in a civil action challenging such restrictions and factors to be considered by a court in determining whether a measure or action impedes access to abortion services.

Makes the following other restrictions on the performance of abortion unlawful and prohibits their imposition or application by any government:

- a prohibition or ban prior to fetal viability;
- a prohibition after fetal viability when, in the good-faith medical judgment of the treating physician, continuation of the pregnancy would pose a risk to the woman's life or health;
- a restriction that limits a woman's ability to obtain an immediate abortion when a health care professional believes, based on good-faith medical judgment, that delay would pose a risk to the woman's health; and
- a prohibition or restriction on obtaining an abortion prior to fetal viability based on a woman's reasons or perceived reasons or that requires her to state her reasons before obtaining an abortion prior to fetal viability.

Requires courts to liberally construe the provisions of this Act.

Authorizes the Attorney General or an individual or entity aggrieved by (or a health facility or medical professional adversely affected by) a violation of this Act, to commence a civil action for injunctive relief.

Preempts any provision enacted by a state or subdivision having the force of law that conflicts with any provision of this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 15, 2014:** Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-844.
- **Nov 13, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 13, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.