

## S 1849

### Medicare Patient Empowerment Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Jul 23, 2015

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Jul 23, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1849>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]

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

## Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Jul 23, 2015
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		Jul 23, 2015
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Jul 23, 2015
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Jul 23, 2015
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Nov 19, 2015
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Dec 17, 2015

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 23, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Health

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 2519	Related bill	Feb 9, 2016: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S740-741)
114 HR 2300	Related bill	Nov 16, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.
114 HR 1650	Identical bill	Apr 7, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

## **Medicare Patient Empowerment Act of 2015**

This bill amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to allow any Medicare beneficiary to enter into a contract with an eligible professional, regardless of whether the professional is a participating or non-participating physician or practitioner, for any item or service covered by Medicare. Such beneficiaries may submit a claim for Medicare payment in the amount that would otherwise apply, except that, where the professional is considered to be non-participating, payment shall be paid as if the professional were participating.

An "eligible professional" is a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified registered nurse anesthetist, certified nurse-midwife, clinical social worker, clinical psychologist, physical or occupational therapist, qualified speech-language pathologist, or qualified audiologist.

A Medicare beneficiary must agree in writing in such a contract to: (1) pay the eligible professional for a Medicare-covered item or service; and (2) submit, in lieu of the eligible professional, a claim for Medicare payment. However, a beneficiary may negotiate, as a term of the contract, for the eligible professional to file such claims on the beneficiary's behalf.

The bill preempts state laws from limiting the amount of charges for physician and practitioner services for which Medicare payment is made.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jul 23, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 23, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.