

S 2368

AFIRM Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Dec 8, 2015

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 317. (Sponsor introductory

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 317. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S8496-8497) (Dec 8, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2368>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Reported Original Measure	Dec 8, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Audit & Appeals Fairness, Integrity, and Reforms in Medicare Act of 2015 or the AFIRM Act

This bill amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish, within the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals, decision-making officials to be known as Medicare magistrates. The bill extends training requirements for Administrative Law Judges to Medicare magistrates and establishes additional training for both types of adjudicator.

The bill also requires HHS to provide for the annual transfer, from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Insurance Trust Fund, of specified additional funding for Medicare hearings and appeals.

HHS shall:

- establish a process for the referral of cases in which there is a credible suspicion of fraudulent activity to relevant specified agencies;
- annually publish on its website specified data regarding Medicare appeals;
- implement a process for identifying inconsistent interpretations of policies in Medicare appeals;
- establish an optional alternative dispute resolution process for redeterminations and reconsiderations;
- create guidelines for reviewing claims for payment submitted by providers;
- designate a point of contact to oversee and undertake several Medicare program integrity initiatives;
- establish a secure system through which a provider may track the status of a claim for payment that is being audited or processed as an appeal;
- appoint a Medicare Reviews and Appeals Ombudsman; and
- establish a compliance incentive program applicable to Medicare review contractors as well as providers.

The bill makes several other revisions to Medicare appeals provisions.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 8, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 8, 2015:** Committee on Finance. Original measure reported to Senate by Senator Hatch. With written report No. 114-177.
- **Dec 8, 2015:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 317. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S8496-8497)