

S 2960

Access to Birth Control Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: May 19, 2016

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. (May 19, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2960>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]

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

Cosponsors (19 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		May 19, 2016
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 19, 2016
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		May 19, 2016
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		May 19, 2016
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		May 19, 2016
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		May 19, 2016
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 19, 2016
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 19, 2016
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		May 19, 2016
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		May 19, 2016
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 19, 2016
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 19, 2016
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		May 19, 2016
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		May 19, 2016
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		May 19, 2016
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		May 19, 2016
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		May 19, 2016
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		May 19, 2016
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 29, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 19, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 5475	Related bill	Sep 19, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

Summary (as of May 19, 2016)

Access to Birth Control Act

This bill amends the Public Health Service Act to require pharmacies to comply with certain rules related to contraceptives, including: (1) providing a customer a contraceptive without delay if it is in stock; (2) immediately informing a customer if the contraceptive is not in stock and either transferring the prescription to a pharmacy that has the contraceptive in stock or ordering the contraceptive and notifying the customer when it arrives, based on customer preference, except for pharmacies that do not ordinarily stock contraceptives; and (3) ensuring that pharmacy employees do not take certain actions relating to a request for contraception, including intimidating, threatening, or harassing customers, interfering with the delivery of services, intentionally deceiving customers about the availability or mechanism of action of contraception, breaching or threatening to breach medical confidentiality, or refusing to return a prescription.

The bill does not prohibit a pharmacy from refusing to provide a contraceptive to a customer if: (1) it is unlawful to dispense the contraceptive to the customer without a prescription and no prescription is presented; (2) the customer is unable to pay for the contraceptive; or (3) the pharmacy employee refuses to provide the contraceptive on the basis of a professional clinical judgment.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 does not provide a claim or a defense to a claim concerning the requirements of this bill or provide a basis for challenging the application or enforcement of these requirements.

The bill does not preempt state law or any professional obligation of a state board that provides greater protections for customers.

Civil penalties and a private cause of action are established for violations of this bill.

Actions Timeline

- **May 19, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 19, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.