

HR 4276

Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Dec 16, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions. (Mar 23, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/4276>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (11 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]	D · FL		Dec 16, 2015
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Dec 16, 2015
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Dec 16, 2015
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]	D · NY		Dec 16, 2015
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Jan 6, 2016
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Jan 6, 2016
Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Mar 21, 2016
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Jun 16, 2016
Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]	D · PA		Jun 21, 2016
Rep. Capps, Lois [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2016
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Jun 28, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 23, 2016
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 18, 2015
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 16, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 4396	Related bill	Mar 23, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.
114 S 2562	Related bill	Feb 22, 2016: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
114 HR 4435	Related bill	Feb 10, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.

Summary (as of Dec 16, 2015)

Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act of 2015

This bill amends the Public Health Service Act, Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and Internal Revenue Code to direct the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and the Treasury to require group health plans and health insurers to disclose the analyses performed to ensure compliance of plans or coverage with the law and regulations. Disclosures must include findings and conclusions regarding whether nonquantitative treatment limitations (e.g., tiered benefits, step therapy, or preauthorization) applied to mental health or substance use disorder benefits are comparable to, and applied no more stringently than, such limitations on medical and surgical benefits.

HHS, Labor, and Treasury must: (1) issue guidance on the process for current and potential participants and beneficiaries to file formal complaints of plans or insurers being in violation of the requirement for parity between mental health and substance use disorder benefits and medical and surgical benefits, (2) conduct audits of plans and insurers to determine compliance with parity requirements and publish information from those audits, and (3) publish information on denials of claims by plans and insurers for mental health and substance use disorder services compared to denials of claims for medical and surgical services.

HHS must establish a consumer parity portal website that allows for submission of complaints and provides information to consumers on parity.

The Government Accountability Office must report on HHS, Labor, and Treasury efforts to enforce parity.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 23, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.
- **Dec 18, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Dec 16, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 16, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.