

S 570

Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Feb 25, 2015

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. (Feb 25, 2015)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/570

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]

Party: Independent • State: VT • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 12, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 25, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1055	Identical bill	Nov 23, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2015

Amends titles XVIII (Medicare) and XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to cover oral health services.

Increases the federal medical assistance percentage for oral health services, thereby increasing payments to states under Medicaid.

Directs the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to maintain a database of dental benefits available to adult Medicaid enrollees in each state.

Amends the Public Health Service Act to establish, revise, and extend funding for grant programs for:

- educating nondental professionals about oral health care;
- providing dental services in hospital emergency rooms or in community settings;
- providing scholarships and education loans for oral health professional students;
- providing oral health services to low-income and underserved individuals;
- building, operating, or expanding dental clinics in schools; and
- providing mobile, comprehensive dental services at locations that serve individuals who qualify for benefits under specified programs.

Authorizes community based dental residencies.

Authorizes specified agencies to conduct research on oral health issues through FY2019.

Amends the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to make oral health services an essential health benefit.

Removes restrictions on the authority of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide dental care to veterans (thereby requiring dental care on the same basis as other VA-provided medical care and services).

Authorizes the VA, Department of Defense, Bureau of Prisons, and Indian Health Service to carry out demonstration programs to train and employ alternative dental health care providers in order to increase access to dental services.

Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the expansion of dental service coverage pursuant to this Act.

Directs the Government Accountability Office to evaluate the implementation and utilization of expanded dental service coverage under this Act and the demonstration programs authorized by this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 25, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 25, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.