

S 1576

Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: May 21, 2019

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 21, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1576>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]

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

Cosponsors (17 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI] | D · WI | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT] | D · CT | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH] | D · OH | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA] | D · CA | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH] | D · NH | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA] | D · VA | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN] | D · MN | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA] | D · MA | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT] | D · CT | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT] | I · VT | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH] | D · NH | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN] | D · MN | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI] | D · MI | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD] | D · MD | | May 21, 2019 |
| Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR] | D · OR | | Jun 11, 2019 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee | Senate | Referred To | May 21, 2019 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| 116 HR 2874 | Identical bill | Jun 30, 2020: Subcommittee Hearings Held. |

Summary (as of May 21, 2019)

Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act

This bill requires the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and the Treasury to (1) cooperatively issue regulations to require group health plans and health insurance issuers to annually disclose the analyses performed to ensure compliance with mental health parity laws, and (2) conduct annual random audits of group health plans and health insurance issuers to determine compliance. (Mental health parity laws prohibit health insurance plans that cover mental health and substance use disorder services from imposing less favorable limitations on those benefits than are placed on medical and surgical benefits under that plan.)

Additionally, HHS must establish a consumer parity unit: (1) to facilitate the collection of, monitoring of, and response to consumer complaints; and (2) to provide consumers information about the disclosure requirements and enforcement of the mental health parity laws.

Actions Timeline

- **May 21, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 21, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.