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PALS Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jun 20, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Jun 20, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1936>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]

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

Cosponsors (15 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Jun 20, 2019
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 20, 2019
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 20, 2019
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		Jun 20, 2019
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 20, 2019
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Jun 20, 2019
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Jun 20, 2019
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jun 20, 2019
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Jun 20, 2019
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 20, 2019
Sen. McSally, Martha [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Jun 24, 2019
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Jun 24, 2019
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Jul 17, 2019
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 23, 2019
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Jul 24, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 20, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 2777	Identical bill	Jun 11, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Summary (as of Jun 20, 2019)

Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screenings Act of 2019 or the PALS Act

This bill makes a series of changes relating to health insurance coverage of screening mammography.

Specifically, the bill requires that any provision of law referring to current recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) with respect to breast cancer screening mammography be administered as if (1) the provision referred to USPSTF recommendations last issued before 2009; and (2) those recommendations applied to any screening mammography modality, including any digital modality of such a procedure. This requirement shall also apply to the Veterans Health Administration's policy on mammography screening for veterans.

In addition, the bill preserves Medicare coverage for screening mammography, without a requirement for coinsurance, and expands the definition of screening mammography to include any digital modality of such a procedure. Further, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services may not decrease the frequency with which screening mammography may be paid by Medicare for a woman over 39 years of age.

In 2009, the USPSTF updated its guidelines to recommend against routine screening mammography for women between 40 to 49 years of age and to recommend biennial, instead of annual, screening mammography for most women between 50 to 74 years of age. In 2015, through the appropriations process, a three-year moratorium was placed on implementing the guidelines; the moratorium was subsequently renewed until January 1, 2020.

Actions Timeline

- Jun 20, 2019: Introduced in Senate
- Jun 20, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.