

## HR 2279

Safe Step Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Apr 10, 2019

**Current Status:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. (Apr 10, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2279>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]

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

**Cosponsors** (157 total)

| Cosponsor                                   | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Wenstrup, Brad R. [R-OH-2]             | R · OH        |      | Apr 10, 2019 |
| Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]                | D · CA        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Bera, Ami [D-CA-7]                     | D · CA        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]                 | R · OH        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]                  | D · TN        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-18]            | D · PA        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]         | R · PA        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]             | D · AZ        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Joyce, John [R-PA-13]                  | R · PA        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]               | D · IL        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]                | R · NY        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]                 | D · MA        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Price, David E. [D-NC-4]               | D · NC        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]             | D · NY        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]                 | R · TN        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Rose, Max [D-NY-11]                    | D · NY        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]           | R · NY        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Van Drew, Jefferson [D-NJ-2]           | D · NJ        |      | May 2, 2019  |
| Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]              | D · CA        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]                | D · MO        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]             | D · WA        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Finkenauer, Abby [D-IA-1]              | D · IA        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]                | D · HI        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Herrera Beutler, Jaime [R-WA-3]        | R · WA        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Kinzinger, Adam [R-IL-16]              | R · IL        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Raja [D-IL-8]          | D · IL        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Levin, Andy [D-MI-9]                   | D · MI        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]              | D · ME        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]                 | D · MD        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Rouda, Harley [D-CA-48]                | D · CA        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2]    | D · MD        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]              | D · CA        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]                  | D · FL        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]                 | D · CA        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-10]           | R · OH        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Visclosky, Peter J. [D-IN-1]           | D · IN        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]       | D · NJ        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Wild, Susan [D-PA-7]                   | D · PA        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Womack, Steve [R-AR-3]                 | R · AR        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]             | R · AK        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large] | D · DC        |      | May 28, 2019 |

| Cosponsor                                   | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Case, Ed [D-HI-1]                      | D · HI        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Dunn, Neal P. [R-FL-2]                 | R · FL        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Gibbs, Bob [R-OH-7]                    | R · OH        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Horn, Kendra S. [D-OK-5]               | D · OK        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4] | D · GA        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Katko, John [R-NY-24]                  | R · NY        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]                | D · NH        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]                    | D · CA        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]           | D · CA        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]        | D · NY        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Marshall, Roger [R-KS-1]               | R · KS        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]                | D · CA        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Stivers, Steve [R-OH-15]               | R · OH        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]            | R · VA        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]              | D · KY        |      | May 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-2]             | D · PA        |      | Jun 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]             | D · NY        |      | Jun 14, 2019 |
| Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]             | D · OR        |      | Jun 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Delgado, Antonio [D-NY-19]             | D · NY        |      | Jun 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]              | D · NJ        |      | Jun 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-2]              | D · AZ        |      | Jun 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Lamb, Conor [D-PA-17]                  | D · PA        |      | Jun 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]                 | D · CA        |      | Jun 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]             | D · MA        |      | Jun 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D-CO-7]                | D · CO        |      | Jun 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Scanlon, Mary Gay [D-PA-5]             | D · PA        |      | Jun 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [R-WI-5]  | R · WI        |      | Jun 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Wagner, Ann [R-MO-2]                   | R · MO        |      | Jun 14, 2019 |
| Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]            | D · MA        |      | Jun 21, 2019 |
| Rep. Schrier, Kim [D-WA-8]                  | D · WA        |      | Jun 21, 2019 |
| Rep. Spano, Ross [R-FL-15]                  | R · FL        |      | Jun 21, 2019 |
| Rep. Cox, TJ [D-CA-21]                      | D · CA        |      | Jul 9, 2019  |
| Rep. Gonzalez, Anthony [R-OH-16]            | R · OH        |      | Jul 9, 2019  |
| Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]                 | D · WA        |      | Jul 9, 2019  |
| Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4]            | R · MS        |      | Jul 9, 2019  |
| Rep. Crow, Jason [D-CO-6]                   | D · CO        |      | Jul 12, 2019 |
| Rep. Harris, Andy [R-MD-1]                  | R · MD        |      | Jul 23, 2019 |
| Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]                   | R · FL        |      | Jul 23, 2019 |
| Rep. Budd, Ted [R-NC-13]                    | R · NC        |      | Jul 25, 2019 |
| Rep. Kim, Andy [D-NJ-3]                     | D · NJ        |      | Aug 9, 2019  |
| Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]              | R · TX        |      | Aug 9, 2019  |
| Rep. Joyce, David P. [R-OH-14]              | R · OH        |      | Aug 16, 2019 |

| Cosponsor   | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Davids, Sharice [D-KS-3]                                   | D · KS        |      | Sep 11, 2019 |
| Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]                              | D · NY        |      | Sep 11, 2019 |
| Rep. Stewart, Chris [R-UT-2]                                    | R · UT        |      | Sep 11, 2019 |
| Rep. Rutherford, John H. [R-FL-4]                               | R · FL        |      | Sep 12, 2019 |
| Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]                               | D · NY        |      | Sep 12, 2019 |
| Rep. Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15]                                | D · TX        |      | Sep 20, 2019 |
| Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]                               | D · MA        |      | Sep 20, 2019 |
| Rep. Loebsack, David [D-IA-2]                                   | D · IA        |      | Sep 20, 2019 |
| Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]                                       | D · WI        |      | Sep 20, 2019 |
| Rep. Zeldin, Lee M. [R-NY-1]                                    | R · NY        |      | Sep 20, 2019 |
| Rep. Fletcher, Lizzie [D-TX-7]                                  | D · TX        |      | Sep 27, 2019 |
| Rep. Hice, Jody B. [R-GA-10]                                    | R · GA        |      | Sep 27, 2019 |
| Rep. Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5]                                   | D · FL        |      | Sep 27, 2019 |
| Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]                                       | D · NY        |      | Sep 27, 2019 |
| Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]                            | D · NJ        |      | Sep 27, 2019 |
| Rep. Scott, Austin [R-GA-8]                                     | R · GA        |      | Sep 27, 2019 |
| Rep. Cisneros, Gilbert Ray, Jr. [D-CA-39]                       | D · CA        |      | Oct 16, 2019 |
| Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]                                   | D · MN        |      | Oct 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]   | D · WI        |      | Oct 23, 2019 |
| Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7]                                  | D · AL        |      | Oct 23, 2019 |
| Rep. Smucker, Lloyd [R-PA-11]                                   | R · PA        |      | Oct 23, 2019 |
| Rep. Spanberger, Abigail Davis [D-VA-7]                         | D · VA        |      | Oct 23, 2019 |
| Rep. Grothman, Glenn [R-WI-6]                                   | R · WI        |      | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]                           | D · MA        |      | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]                                       | D · CO        |      | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]                                    | D · IL        |      | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Resident Commissioner González-Colón, Jenniffer [R-PR-At Large] | R · PR        |      | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Amodei, Mark E. [R-NV-2]                                   | R · NV        |      | Nov 22, 2019 |
| Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]                                     | D · OH        |      | Nov 22, 2019 |
| Rep. McBath, Lucy [D-GA-6]                                      | D · GA        |      | Nov 22, 2019 |
| Rep. Scott, David [D-GA-13]                                     | D · GA        |      | Nov 22, 2019 |
| Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-15]                                  | R · PA        |      | Nov 22, 2019 |
| Rep. Trone, David J. [D-MD-6]                                   | D · MD        |      | Nov 22, 2019 |
| Rep. Comer, James [R-KY-1]                                      | R · KY        |      | Dec 6, 2019  |
| Rep. Gosar, Paul A. [R-AZ-4]                                    | R · AZ        |      | Dec 6, 2019  |
| Rep. Latta, Robert E. [R-OH-5]                                  | R · OH        |      | Dec 6, 2019  |
| Rep. Stevens, Haley M. [D-MI-11]                                | D · MI        |      | Dec 6, 2019  |
| Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]                                     | D · CT        |      | Dec 18, 2019 |
| Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]                                    | D · AZ        |      | Dec 18, 2019 |
| Rep. Murphy, Gregory [R-NC-3]                                   | R · NC        |      | Dec 18, 2019 |
| Rep. Stanton, Greg [D-AZ-9]                                     | D · AZ        |      | Dec 18, 2019 |
| Rep. Green, Mark E. [R-TN-7]                                    | R · TN        |      | Jan 10, 2020 |

| Cosponsor                                  | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|--|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. McHenry, Patrick T. [R-NC-10]         | R · NC        |      | Feb 7, 2020  |
| Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]                | D · NH        |      | Feb 7, 2020  |
| Rep. Torres Small, Xochitl [D-NM-2]        | D · NM        |      | Feb 7, 2020  |
| Rep. Waltz, Michael [R-FL-6]               | R · FL        |      | Feb 7, 2020  |
| Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12]              | R · GA        |      | Feb 27, 2020 |
| Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]               | D · CO        |      | Feb 27, 2020 |
| Rep. Houlahan, Chrissy [D-PA-6]            | D · PA        |      | Feb 27, 2020 |
| Rep. LaHood, Darin [R-IL-18]               | R · IL        |      | Feb 27, 2020 |
| Rep. Sherrill, Mikie [D-NJ-11]             | D · NJ        |      | Feb 27, 2020 |
| Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]      | D · CA        |      | Mar 13, 2020 |
| Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large] | D · DE        |      | Mar 13, 2020 |
| Rep. Long, Billy [R-MO-7]                  | R · MO        |      | Mar 13, 2020 |
| Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]             | D · MO        |      | Jul 1, 2020  |
| Rep. Cole, Tom [R-OK-4]                    | R · OK        |      | Jul 1, 2020  |
| Rep. Dean, Madeleine [D-PA-4]              | D · PA        |      | Jul 1, 2020  |
| Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]                | D · CA        |      | Jul 1, 2020  |
| Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]          | D · FL        |      | Jul 1, 2020  |
| Rep. Malinowski, Tom [D-NJ-7]              | D · NJ        |      | Jul 1, 2020  |
| Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]             | D · NY        |      | Jul 1, 2020  |
| Rep. Shalala, Donna E. [D-FL-27]           | D · FL        |      | Jul 1, 2020  |
| Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]                 | D · NJ        |      | Jul 1, 2020  |
| Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]              | D · CA        |      | Sep 17, 2020 |
| Rep. Guest, Michael [R-MS-3]               | R · MS        |      | Sep 17, 2020 |
| Rep. McKinley, David B. [R-WV-1]           | R · WV        |      | Sep 17, 2020 |
| Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]                 | D · NY        |      | Sep 17, 2020 |
| Rep. Allred, Colin Z. [D-TX-32]            | D · TX        |      | Dec 10, 2020 |
| Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-3]                | D · PA        |      | Dec 10, 2020 |
| Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9]                    | D · TX        |      | Dec 10, 2020 |
| Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]              | D · CT        |      | Dec 10, 2020 |
| Rep. Larson, John B. [D-CT-1]              | D · CT        |      | Dec 10, 2020 |
| Rep. Murphy, Stephanie N. [D-FL-7]         | D · FL        |      | Dec 10, 2020 |
| Rep. Steube, W. Gregory [R-FL-17]          | R · FL        |      | Dec 10, 2020 |

### Committee Activity

| Committee                         | Chamber | Activity    | Date         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Education and Workforce Committee | House   | Referred To | Apr 10, 2019 |

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Health

## Related Bills

| Bill       | Relationship | Last Action  |
|------------|--------------|--|
| 116 S 2546 | Related bill | <b>Sep 25, 2019:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. |

## Summary (as of Apr 10, 2019)

### Safe Step Act

This bill requires a group health plan to establish an exception to medication step-therapy protocol in specified cases. A medication step-therapy protocol establishes a specific sequence in which prescription drugs are covered by a group health plan or a health insurance issuer.

A request for such an exception to the protocol must be granted if (1) the treatment is expected to be ineffective, (2) the treatment will cause or is likely to cause an adverse reaction to the individual, (3) the treatment is expected to decrease the individual's ability either to perform daily activities or occupational responsibilities or adhere to the treatment plan, (4) the individual is stable based on the prescription drugs already selected, or (5) there are other medical reasons that warrant withholding the treatment.

The bill requires a group health plan to implement and make readily available a clear process for an individual to request an exception to the protocol. Requests must be granted no later than three days after receipt of the request. In certain cases where the life, health, and ability of the individual are jeopardized by the protocol, the request shall be granted no later than 24 hours after receipt of the request.

### Actions Timeline

- **Apr 10, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 10, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.