

S 2546

Safe Step Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Sep 25, 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. (Sep 25, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2546>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]

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

Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		Sep 25, 2019
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Sep 25, 2019
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Sep 25, 2019
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		Sep 25, 2019
Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL]	D · AL		Sep 25, 2019
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Sep 25, 2019
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Sep 25, 2019
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Oct 16, 2019
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Oct 22, 2019
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Nov 12, 2019
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Nov 20, 2019
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Dec 10, 2019
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jan 7, 2020
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 13, 2020
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 9, 2020
Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]	R · LA		Jul 28, 2020
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Oct 22, 2020
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Oct 22, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 25, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 2279	Related bill	Apr 10, 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Summary (as of Sep 25, 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) an otherwise required treatment has been ineffective, (2) such treatment is expected to be ineffective and delaying effective treatment would lead to irreversible consequences, (3) such treatment will cause or is likely to cause an adverse reaction to the individual, (4) such treatment is expected to prevent the individual from performing daily activities or occupational responsibilities, (5) the individual is stable based on the prescription drugs already selected, or (6) there are other circumstances as determined by the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

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, including required information and criteria for granting an exception. The bill further specifies timelines under which plans must respond to such requests.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 25, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 25, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.