

S 3499

Free COVID–19 Testing Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 12, 2020

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. (Mar 12, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3499>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]

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

Cosponsors (42 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL]	D · AL		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 12, 2020
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 17, 2020
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 17, 2020

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Mar 17, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 12, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 6261	Related bill	Apr 1, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States.
116 HR 6201	Related bill	Mar 19, 2020: Engrossment Correction
116 HR 6263	Related bill	Mar 19, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
116 HR 6214	Related bill	Mar 12, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
116 HR 6232	Related bill	Mar 12, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
116 HR 6244	Related bill	Mar 12, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
116 HR 6213	Related bill	Mar 11, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Summary (as of Mar 12, 2020)

Free COVID–19 Testing Act

This bill requires specified public health care programs and private health insurance to cover testing for COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) without imposing cost-sharing (e.g., deductibles, coinsurance, or copayments) for the duration of the public health emergency declared on January 31, 2020. This coverage includes the cost of administering such approved tests and related visits to health care providers.

Specifically, these requirements apply to COVID-19 testing and office visits for individuals covered through (1) Medicare, (2) Medicare Advantage, (3) Medicaid, (4) the Children's Health Insurance Program, (5) the Department of Defense (i.e., TRICARE), (6) the Department of Veterans Affairs, (7) the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, or (8) the Indian Health Service. Additionally, state Medicaid programs may cover COVID-19 testing and related visits for uninsured individuals during the emergency, and the Department of Health and Human Services must reimburse laboratories for the cost of such tests.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 12, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 12, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.