

S 4262

COVID–19 Health Disparities Action Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jul 22, 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. (Jul 22, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4262>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]

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

Cosponsors (19 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jul 22, 2020
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Jul 23, 2020
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Jul 27, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 22, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 8203	Identical bill	Sep 11, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Summary (as of Jul 22, 2020)

COVID-19 Health Disparities Action Act of 2020

This bill directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to award grants, and the Office of Minority Health (OMH) to develop a plan, to address health disparities related to COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019).

Specifically, the CDC, in coordination with certain departments and agencies, must award grants for contact tracing to, among others, public health departments and health care providers. In awarding these grants, the CDC shall prioritize entities with a demonstrated commitment to employing individuals who represent the demographic groups in the community served by the entity.

The CDC must also work with states to update certain COVID-19 testing plans to address testing for populations experiencing COVID-19 health disparities.

Additionally, the CDC must award grants to public health departments, tribal organizations, and others for public awareness campaigns on COVID-19 health disparities and, upon the availability of a vaccine, COVID-19 vaccine safety. For these grants, the CDC must give priority to entities serving populations that experience COVID-19 health disparities and low rates of vaccinations, respectively. The CDC must undertake a separate COVID-19 public awareness campaign, as well.

In addition, the OMH must develop, within 30 days, an action plan on COVID-19 health disparities that addresses, among other issues, barriers to COVID-19 data collection. The OMH must coordinate with the CDC and others on this plan and update it at least every 30 days during the COVID-19 emergency.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 22, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 22, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.