

S 4819

Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Oct 20, 2020

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S6

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S6331-6332) (Oct 20, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4819>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]

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

Cosponsors (8 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT] | D · CT | | Oct 20, 2020 |
| Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Oct 20, 2020 |
| Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD] | D · MD | | Oct 20, 2020 |
| Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL] | D · IL | | Oct 20, 2020 |
| Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | Oct 20, 2020 |
| Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA] | D · VA | | Oct 20, 2020 |
| Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR] | D · OR | | Oct 20, 2020 |
| Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT] | I · VT | | Oct 20, 2020 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Finance Committee | Senate | Referred To | Oct 20, 2020 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| 116 HR 9004 | Related bill | Dec 17, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. |
| 116 HR 9005 | Related bill | Dec 17, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. |
| 116 HR 9006 | Related bill | Dec 17, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. |
| 116 HR 9007 | Related bill | Dec 17, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. |
| 116 HR 9008 | Related bill | Dec 17, 2020: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. |
| 116 HR 1109 | Related bill | Sep 30, 2020: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. |
| 116 HR 6637 | Related bill | Jul 9, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. |
| 116 HR 6075 | Related bill | Jun 1, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations. |
| 116 HR 6178 | Related bill | Mar 10, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. |
| 116 HR 4821 | Related bill | Oct 26, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. |
| 116 HR 3776 | Related bill | Aug 6, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. |
| 116 HR 4004 | Related bill | Jul 26, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. |
| 116 HR 2895 | Related bill | Jun 26, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. |
| 116 HR 3109 | Related bill | Jun 6, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. |
| 116 HR 2701 | Related bill | May 15, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. |
| 116 HR 2720 | Related bill | May 15, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. |
| 116 HR 2584 | Related bill | May 8, 2019: Referred to the House Committee on the Budget. |
| 116 HR 1897 | Related bill | Mar 28, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. |

Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2020

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and others to undertake efforts to reduce health disparities.

For example, the bill (1) requires more detailed reporting of demographic and health disparities data, (2) directs certain components of HHS to support health workforce diversity, and (3) increases access to culturally and linguistically appropriate health care.

The bill also modifies eligibility and other requirements for Medicare, Medicaid, private health insurance, and other programs to reduce health disparities among vulnerable populations. The bill includes specific provisions with respect to noncitizens; maternal, infant, and child health; mental and behavioral health; and specified conditions that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minority groups, such as certain cancers, HIV/AIDs, kidney disease, and diabetes.

Additionally, the bill (1) revises health information technology programs to address health disparities; (2) establishes an Office of Health Disparities within HHS, as well as civil rights compliance offices within HHS agencies; and (3) supports health impact assessments and other efforts pertaining to environmental justice and social determinants of health.

The Government Accountability Office must report on health workforce diversity and other specified issues related to health care and health disparities.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 20, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Oct 20, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S6331-6332)