

HR 4946

Ensuring Seniors Access to Local Pharmacies Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Oct 31, 2019

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Nov 1, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4946>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]

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

Cosponsors (17 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12] | R · GA | | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Axne, Cynthia [D-IA-3] | D · IA | | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1] | R · GA | | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Crawford, Eric A. "Rick" [R-AR-1] | R · AR | | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15] | D · TX | | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Griffith, H. Morgan [R-VA-9] | R · VA | | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Loebssack, David [D-IA-2] | D · IA | | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5] | R · WA | | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Peterson, Collin C. [D-MN-7] | D · MN | | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1] | R · TN | | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Westerman, Bruce [R-AR-4] | R · AR | | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Rep. Fleischmann, Charles J. "Chuck" [R-TN-3] | R · TN | | Nov 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Byrne, Bradley [R-AL-1] | R · AL | | Nov 22, 2019 |
| Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2] | D · MD | | Nov 22, 2019 |
| Rep. Hill, J. French [R-AR-2] | R · AR | | Jan 16, 2020 |
| Rep. Marshall, Roger [R-KS-1] | R · KS | | Sep 1, 2020 |
| Rep. Finkenauer, Abby [D-IA-1] | D · IA | | Oct 2, 2020 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Energy and Commerce Committee | House | Referred to | Nov 1, 2019 |
| Ways and Means Committee | House | Referred To | Oct 31, 2019 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Oct 31, 2019)

Ensuring Seniors Access to Local Pharmacies Act of 2019

This bill establishes several requirements for prescription drug plans under the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Specifically, the bill requires prescription drug plans to allow any pharmacy located in a health professional shortage area, a medically underserved area, or a rural area to be included as an in-network pharmacy if the plan already has other in-network pharmacies in the same area.

The bill also establishes certain standards for prescription drug plans regarding pharmacy reimbursements and related disclosures. Among other things, the bill prohibits prescription drug plans from reimbursing a pharmacy in an amount that is less than the amount the pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) reimburses an affiliated pharmacy (i.e., a pharmacy that has a shared ownership interest with the PBM) for the same services.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 1, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Oct 31, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 31, 2019:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.