# HR 5189

BABIES Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)
**Chamber:** House
**Policy Area:** Health
**Introduced:** Nov 20, 2019
**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Nov 21, 2019)
**Official Text:** https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5189

## Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]
**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MA • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors (6 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1] | R · GA | | Nov 20, 2019 |
| Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4] | D · MA | | Dec 4, 2019 |
| Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7] | D · MA | | Dec 4, 2019 |
| Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40] | D · CA | | Feb 3, 2020 |
| Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8] | D · MD | | Sep 11, 2020 |
| Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2] | D · MS | | Sep 11, 2020 |

## Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Energy and Commerce Committee | House | Referred to | Nov 21, 2019 |

## Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Health

## Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## Summary (as of Nov 20, 2019)

**Birth Access Benefiting Improved Essential Facility Services Act or the BABIES Act**

This bill requires the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to establish a Medicaid demonstration program to improve freestanding birth center services for women with low-risk pregnancies.

Among other things, the CMS must (1) publish criteria for freestanding birth centers to participate in the program, including specified accreditation, licensure, and service requirements; (2) publish guidance for states to establish prospective payment systems under Medicaid for program participants; and (3) award planning grants for states to develop program proposals. The CMS may choose up to six states to participate in the program.

## Actions Timeline

- **Nov 21, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Nov 20, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 20, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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