

HR 7718

Protecting the Health and Wellness of Babies and Pregnant Women in Custody Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Jul 22, 2020

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Oct 19, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7718>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (35 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5] | D · MA | | Jul 22, 2020 |
| Rep. Lesko, Debbie [R-AZ-8] | R · AZ | | Jul 22, 2020 |
| Rep. Reschenthaler, Guy [R-PA-14] | R · PA | | Jul 22, 2020 |
| Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13] | D · CA | | Sep 8, 2020 |
| Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5] | R · WA | | Sep 8, 2020 |
| Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14] | D · CA | | Sep 8, 2020 |
| Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12] | D · NJ | | Sep 8, 2020 |
| Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large] | D · DC | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12] | D · NC | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3] | D · OH | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3] | D · OR | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large] | D · DE | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1] | D · OR | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Brown, Anthony G. [D-MD-4] | D · MD | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17] | D · IL | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29] | D · CA | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7] | D · IN | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1] | R · OH | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46] | D · CA | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20] | D · FL | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5] | D · CT | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9] | D · OH | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14] | D · MI | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6] | D · NY | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40] | D · CA | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13] | D · OH | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7] | D · AL | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2] | D · MS | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34] | D · TX | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Wagner, Ann [R-MO-2] | R · MO | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Walorski, Jackie [R-IN-2] | R · IN | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23] | D · FL | | Sep 14, 2020 |
| Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9] | D · TN | | Sep 21, 2020 |
| Rep. Garcia, Sylvia R. [D-TX-29] | D · TX | | Sep 21, 2020 |
| Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18] | D · TX | | Sep 21, 2020 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Judiciary Committee | House | Reported By | Sep 24, 2020 |
| Judiciary Committee | Senate | Referred To | Oct 19, 2020 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Oct 1, 2020)

Protecting the Health and Wellness of Babies and Pregnant Women in Custody Act

This bill contains provisions related to the medical needs of incarcerated women.

The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) shall provide women in its custody access to certain reproductive health services. The bill also requires the BOP to (1) comply with requirements related to the health of a pregnant incarcerated woman, such as providing appropriate meals and medical services; and (2) provide appropriate health care to a woman with a high-risk pregnancy.

The bill also modifies restrictions on using restraints on an incarcerated woman during pregnancy, labor, or after delivery. The bill prohibits such restraints unless the relevant corrections official and a health care professional determine that the restraints are appropriate for the woman's medical safety. The health care professional must review this determination every six hours. The current statute allows using such restraints if the corrections official determines that restraints are needed due to a flight risk or threat of harm, and does not require periodic review.

The bill also prohibits the BOP from placing a pregnant woman into restrictive housing, such as solitary confinement, unless the relevant corrections official determines that such an action is necessary to address a serious and immediate risk of physical harm. This determination shall be reviewed every four hours.

The Department of Justice may make grants to eligible entities, such as a state department of corrections, to provide obstetrical care, gynecological care, and related services to women in custody.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics shall collect certain data related to the health needs of pregnant incarcerated women.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 19, 2020:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
- **Oct 1, 2020:** Ms. Bass moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Oct 1, 2020:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5143-5149)
- **Oct 1, 2020:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 7718.
- **Oct 1, 2020:** DEBATE - The House continued with debate on H.R. 7718.
- **Oct 1, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.
- **Oct 1, 2020:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5143-5147)
- **Oct 1, 2020:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 24, 2020:** Reported by the Committee on Judiciary. H. Rept. 116-536.
- **Sep 24, 2020:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 436.
- **Sep 15, 2020:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jul 22, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 22, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.