

## S 782

### Improving Access to Mental Health Act of 2019

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Mar 13, 2019

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Mar 13, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/782>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]

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

## Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Mar 13, 2019
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Jul 15, 2019

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 13, 2019

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Health

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 1533	Related bill	Mar 6, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

## Improving Access to Mental Health Act of 2019

This bill increases the Medicare reimbursement rate for clinical social worker services. The bill excludes clinical social worker services from the prospective payment system in which predetermined amounts form the basis for payment under Medicare.

Additionally, the bill alters the definition of *clinical social worker services* as it relates to Medicare. Under current law, such services (1) include services performed for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses, and (2) exclude services furnished to an inpatient of a skilled nursing facility as a condition of the facility's participation in the Medicare program. The bill repeals these provisions and instead specifies that such services include certain types of health behavior assessment and intervention.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Mar 13, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 13, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.