

S 217

Patient Matching Improvement Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Feb 3, 2021

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Feb 3, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/217>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		Feb 3, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 4, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Patient Matching Improvement Act of 2021

This bill requires the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) to standardize the format of postal addresses in health information technology to improve patient matching. Patient matching is the identification and linking of one patient's data within and across health care organizations using multiple demographic fields, such as name and address.

The ONC must collaborate with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to make existing tools that automatically format addresses into a specific standard available to health care organizations. In particular, the ONC must focus on making the tools available to laboratories that test for COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) to improve data collection related to that disease. If the USPS determines the tools cannot be made available to health care organizations, the Department of Health and Human Services must report to Congress on the barriers that prevent such use.

In addition, the ONC must update regulations to require the use of a standard address format as a condition of certification for health information technology.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 3, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 3, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.