HR 2598

COVID–19 Safe Birthing Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Health
Introduced: Apr 15, 2021
Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Apr 16, 2021)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2598

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]
Party: Democratic • **State:** MA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Apr 21, 2021
Rep. Jones, Mondaire [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Apr 21, 2021
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Apr 21, 2021
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Apr 21, 2021
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Apr 21, 2021
Rep. Williams, Nikema [D-GA-5]	D · GA		Apr 21, 2021
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		May 14, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Apr 15, 2021
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 16, 2021
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 15, 2021
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 15, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Apr 15, 2021)

COVID-19 Safe Birthing Act

This bill expands coverage of maternal health care under Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and private health insurance.

The bill specifically provides for Medicare and Medicaid coverage of maternal health services that are furnished via telehealth. It also requires Medicaid, CHIP, and private health insurance to cover prenatal services and one year of postpartum care without cost-sharing.

The bill also requires short-term, limited-duration health insurance plans, association health plans, and health care sharing ministries to cover COVID-19 testing without cost-sharing. It also requires state Medicaid programs to provide coverage of COVID-19 testing for pregnant individuals who are uninsured.

Additionally, as a condition of Medicare participation, hospitals must permit pregnant individuals to be accompanied by someone of their choosing (in addition to a doula or other health care worker) during labor, delivery, and recovery, and may not implement any discriminatory policies that restrict hospital access or birthing options for pregnant individuals.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 16, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Apr 15, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 15, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, 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.
- **Apr 15, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security.
- **Apr 15, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

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