

## HR 4251

Native Behavioral Health Access Improvement Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Native Americans

**Introduced:** Jun 30, 2021

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States. (Jul 24, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4251>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]

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

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Jun 30, 2021

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 1, 2021
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 24, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Native Americans

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 2226	Related bill	<b>Jun 24, 2021:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

## Native Behavioral Health Access Improvement Act of 2021

This bill establishes a special tribal behavioral health grant program and expands the applicability of certain federal health care provisions to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Specifically, the bill provides funds for and requires the Indian Health Service (IHS) to award grants to eligible entities (e.g., tribal health programs) for the prevention and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders.

The bill defines *Indian* for purposes of health insurance reform, exchanges, and subsidies to include individuals of Indian descent who are members of an Indian community served by the IHS and individuals considered by the Department of Health and Human Services to be Indian for purposes of eligibility for Indian health care services. Individuals included in the definition are eligible for special monthly enrollment periods on health insurance exchanges and elimination of cost sharing under individual health coverage for those whose income is not more than 300% of the poverty line. Under current law, only members of Indian tribes are eligible for these benefits.

### Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 24, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States.
- **Jul 1, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jun 30, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 30, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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.