

HR 4612

PALS Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jul 21, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Sep 7, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4612>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]

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

Cosponsors (36 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Upton, Fred [R-MI-6]	R · MI		Jul 21, 2021
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Van Drew, Jefferson [R-NJ-2]	R · NJ		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Aug 6, 2021
Rep. Hill, J. French [R-AR-2]	R · AR		Aug 6, 2021
Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40]	D · CA		Aug 6, 2021
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Aug 6, 2021
Rep. Waltz, Michael [R-FL-6]	R · FL		Aug 6, 2021
Rep. Axne, Cynthia [D-IA-3]	D · IA		Aug 10, 2021
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Aug 10, 2021
Rep. Casten, Sean [D-IL-6]	D · IL		Aug 24, 2021
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-22]	D · FL		Aug 24, 2021
Rep. Allred, Colin Z. [D-TX-32]	D · TX		Aug 31, 2021
Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Aug 31, 2021
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Sep 14, 2021
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Sep 27, 2021
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-21]	D · FL		Sep 27, 2021
Rep. Garcia, Sylvia R. [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Sep 27, 2021
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Oct 8, 2021
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Oct 8, 2021
Rep. Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5]	D · FL		Oct 8, 2021
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Oct 25, 2021
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Oct 25, 2021
Rep. Stansbury, Melanie Ann [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Oct 25, 2021
Rep. Bacon, Don [R-NE-2]	R · NE		Mar 9, 2022
Rep. O'Halleran, Tom [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Jul 26, 2022
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]	D · FL		Aug 9, 2022
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Aug 16, 2022
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Aug 19, 2022
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Sep 9, 2022
Rep. Bush, Cori [D-MO-1]	D · MO		Sep 20, 2022
Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		Sep 28, 2022
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Oct 14, 2022
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Nov 10, 2022
Rep. Ross, Deborah K. [D-NC-2]	D · NC		Nov 29, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 22, 2021
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 7, 2021
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 21, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 2412	Identical bill	Jul 21, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S5020)

Summary (as of Jul 21, 2021)

Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screenings Act of 2021 or the PALS Act

This bill makes a series of changes relating to health insurance coverage of screening mammography.

Specifically, the bill requires that any provision of law referring to current recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) with respect to breast cancer screening mammography be administered as if (1) the provision referred to USPSTF recommendations last issued before 2009; and (2) those recommendations applied to any screening mammography modality, including any digital modality of such a procedure. This requirement shall also apply to the Veterans Health Administration's policy on mammography screening for veterans.

In addition, the bill preserves Medicare coverage for screening mammography, without a requirement for coinsurance, and expands the definition of screening mammography to include any digital modality of such a procedure. Further, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services may not decrease the frequency with which screening mammography may be paid by Medicare for a woman over 39 years of age.

In 2009, the USPSTF updated its guidelines to recommend against routine screening mammography for women between 40 to 49 years of age and to recommend biennial, instead of annual, screening mammography for most women between 50 to 74 years of age. In 2015, through the appropriations process, a three-year moratorium was placed on implementing the guidelines; the moratorium was subsequently renewed until January 1, 2023.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 7, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jul 22, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jul 21, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 21, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Veterans' Affairs, 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.
- **Jul 21, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.