

S 464

Safe Step Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Feb 25, 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 25, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/464>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]

Party: Republican • **State:** AK • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (36 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT] | D · CT | | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV] | R · WV | | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA] | R · LA | | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND] | R · ND | | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH] | D · NH | | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI] | D · HI | | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS] | R · MS | | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR] | D · OR | | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV] | D · NV | | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH] | D · NH | | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ] | D · AZ | | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC] | R · NC | | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Marshall, Roger [R-KS] | R · KS | | Apr 13, 2021 |
| Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME] | I · ME | | Apr 15, 2021 |
| Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO] | D · CO | | May 11, 2021 |
| Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME] | R · ME | | May 11, 2021 |
| Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN] | D · MN | | May 12, 2021 |
| Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC] | R · SC | | May 13, 2021 |
| Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT] | D · MT | | May 18, 2021 |
| Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR] | R · AR | | May 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA] | D · PA | | May 25, 2021 |
| Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS] | R · KS | | May 27, 2021 |
| Sen. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY] | R · WY | | Jun 10, 2021 |
| Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS] | R · MS | | Jun 10, 2021 |
| Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV] | D · NV | | Jun 22, 2021 |
| Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA] | D · GA | | Jul 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI] | D · MI | | Oct 5, 2021 |
| Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD] | D · MD | | Dec 15, 2021 |
| Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI] | D · MI | | Jan 12, 2022 |
| Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE] | D · DE | | Apr 27, 2022 |
| Sen. Kelly, Mark [D-AZ] | D · AZ | | Jun 7, 2022 |
| Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH] | R · OH | | Jul 26, 2022 |
| Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA] | D · CA | | Nov 16, 2022 |
| Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA] | D · VA | | Nov 16, 2022 |
| Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM] | D · NM | | Dec 21, 2022 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee | Senate | Referred To | Feb 25, 2021 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 117 HR 2163 | Identical bill | Mar 23, 2021: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. |

Summary (as of Feb 25, 2021)

Safe Step Act

This bill requires a group health plan to establish an exception to medication step-therapy protocol in specified cases. A medication step-therapy protocol establishes a specific sequence in which prescription drugs are covered by a group health plan or a health insurance issuer.

A request for such an exception to the protocol must be granted if (1) an otherwise required treatment has been ineffective, (2) such treatment is expected to be ineffective and delaying effective treatment would lead to irreversible consequences, (3) such treatment will cause or is likely to cause an adverse reaction to the individual, (4) such treatment is expected to prevent the individual from performing daily activities or occupational responsibilities, (5) the individual is stable based on the prescription drugs already selected, or (6) there are other circumstances as determined by the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

The bill requires a group health plan to implement and make readily available a clear process for an individual to request an exception to the protocol, including required information and criteria for granting an exception. The bill further specifies timelines under which plans must respond to such requests.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 25, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 25, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.