

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.