

S 4677

Mental Health Workforce and Language Access Act of 2022

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jul 28, 2022

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. (Jul 28, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4677>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jul 28, 2022
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 28, 2022
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 28, 2022
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 28, 2022
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jul 28, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 28, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 7585	Related bill	Jun 29, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
117 S 4486	Related bill	Jun 23, 2022: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
117 HR 5937	Related bill	Nov 10, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Mental Health Workforce and Language Access Act of 2022

This bill establishes within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) two demonstration programs to increase access to mental health services provided in languages other than English at federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). In carrying out the programs, HHS must give preference to FQHCs at which at least 20% of the patients are best served in a language other than English.

First, HHS must provide National Health Service Corps (NHSC) loan repayments to mental health care providers who agree to serve their period of obligated service in an FQHC. Additionally, HHS must provide enhanced payments to those who serve in an FQHC with non-English language needs. (The NHSC is a scholarship and student loan repayment program for eligible health care providers who agree to work in areas with a shortage of primary care, dental care, and mental health care providers.)

Second, HHS must award grants to FQHCs for recruiting and retaining mental health care providers who are fluent in a language other than English.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 28, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 28, 2022:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.