

## S 54

### Strengthening America's Health Care Readiness Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Jan 26, 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. (Jan 26, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/54>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

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

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Jan 26, 2021

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 26, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Health

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## **Strengthening America's Health Care Readiness Act**

This bill establishes an emergency services demonstration program within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide supplemental student loan repayment to current and former National Health Services Corps (NHSC) participants. The NHSC provides scholarships and student loan repayment awards to health care providers who agree to work in areas with health care provider shortages.

To receive supplemental payments, individuals must agree to participate in the National Disaster Medical System. This system is a partnership between HHS, the Department of Defense, and other federal departments that responds to public health and other emergencies, including by deploying medical response teams.

The bill also increases FY2021 funding for the NHSC, as well as similar programs for nurses. It reserves some of this funding for individuals who are members of groups that are historically underrepresented in health care professions. The funds for the Nurse Corps Scholarship and Repayment Program are designated as an emergency requirement, which exempts the funds from discretionary spending limits and other budget enforcement rules.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jan 26, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 26, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.