

S 656

Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Social Welfare

Introduced: Mar 10, 2021

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Mar 10, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/656>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]

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

Cosponsors (25 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]	R · IN		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]	R · IA		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Hagerty, Bill [R-TN]	R · TN		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Hawley, Josh [R-MO]	R · MO		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]	R · LA		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]	R · UT		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Sasse, Ben [R-NE]	R · NE		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Marshall, Roger [R-KS]	R · KS		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Apr 12, 2021
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Jul 20, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 10, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Social Welfare

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 1750	Identical bill	Mar 10, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support.

Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act of 2021

This bill generally prohibits the federal government, states, tribal nations, or localities from discriminating or taking adverse action against a child welfare provider that declines to provide services due to the provider's sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions. However, government entities may still take adverse action against a provider that declines to provide adoption or foster care services based on race, color, or national origin.

The Department of Health and Human Services must withhold a portion of federal funding for family services and child welfare activities from a government entity that discriminates against a child welfare provider in violation of this bill. Child welfare providers may also sue the government entity for such discrimination. A prevailing provider may recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

Furthermore, government entities that accept certain federal funding for family services and child welfare activities must waive sovereign immunity as a defense to lawsuits brought under this bill. (In many cases, sovereign immunity shields states, territories, tribal nations, and some localities against private suits.)

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 10, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 10, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.