

S 851

Social Determinants for Moms Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 18, 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. (Mar 18, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/851>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Ossoff, Jon [D-GA]	D · GA		Sep 13, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 18, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 8862	Related bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
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 959	Related bill	Apr 23, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
117 HR 943	Related bill	Mar 9, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations.
117 S 346	Related bill	Feb 22, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Social Determinants for Moms Act

This bill directs various federal departments to address social determinants of maternal health. These are nonclinical factors, such as economic or social factors, that impact maternal health outcomes.

First, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must convene a task force to coordinate federal efforts on social determinants of maternal health. HHS must also award grants to

- support access to free child care during prenatal and postpartum appointments; and
- address social determinants of, and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in, maternal health.

Second, the Department of Housing and Urban Development must award grants to community-based organizations and government entities to assist pregnant and postpartum individuals with affordable housing. Grantees may use funds to, for example, provide individuals with direct financial assistance.

Third, the Department of Transportation must report on transportation barriers that prevent pregnant and postpartum individuals from accessing health care and other services.

Fourth, the bill extends to 24 months the postpartum eligibility period for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Currently, WIC eligibility lasts for six months postpartum or one year for those breastfeeding. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) must evaluate the impact of this extension. USDA must also establish a grant program to deliver healthy foods and supplies to pregnant and postpartum individuals in food deserts.

Last, the Environmental Protection Agency must enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study the impact of environmental conditions and contaminants on maternal and infant health outcomes.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 18, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
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