

S 237

Protecting Access to Medication Abortion Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Feb 2, 2023

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 2, 2023)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/237

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]

Party: Democratic • State: MN • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 2, 2023
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 2, 2023
Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]	D · CO		Feb 2, 2023
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Feb 2, 2023
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Feb 2, 2023
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 2, 2023
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 2, 2023
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 2, 2023
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Feb 2, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 2, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 767	Identical bill	Feb 10, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Protecting Access to Medication Abortion Act of 2023

This bill requires the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ensure that patients may receive mifepristone through prescriptions issued via telehealth and filled by mail. The FDA has approved mifepristone for medication abortions (i.e., a procedure in which prescription drugs are used to terminate a pregnancy).

(Mifepristone is subject to a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy, which imposes various safety-related requirements. During the COVID-19 public health emergency, the FDA suspended enforcement of a requirement that the drug must be dispensed in person, a requirement in the strategy at the time. In January 2023, the FDA updated the strategy to remove the in-person dispensing requirement.)

Under this bill, the FDA must ensure that the strategy for mifepristone (1) does not have an in-person dispensing requirement, (2) allows patients to access prescriptions for mifepristone via telehealth, and (3) authorizes all pharmacies certified to dispense mifepristone to patients to do so via mail.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 2, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 2, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.