

S 4280

Essential Caregivers Act of 2024

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: May 8, 2024

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (May 8, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/4280>

Sponsor

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

Party: Democratic • State: CT • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		May 8, 2024
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Jul 29, 2024
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Aug 1, 2024
Sen. Fetterman, John [D-PA]	D · PA		Sep 9, 2024
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Sep 9, 2024
Sen. Schmitt, Eric [R-MO]	R · MO		Sep 9, 2024
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Sep 9, 2024
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Sep 19, 2024
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Sep 23, 2024
Sen. Britt, Katie Boyd [R-AL]	R · AL		Nov 12, 2024
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Nov 12, 2024
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Nov 12, 2024
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Nov 12, 2024
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [I-AZ]	I · AZ		Nov 12, 2024
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 12, 2024
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Nov 13, 2024
Sen. Kelly, Mark [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Nov 13, 2024
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Dec 16, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 8, 2024

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of May 8, 2024)

Essential Caregivers Act of 2024

This bill prohibits certain health care facilities from limiting the access of essential caregivers to residents of those facilities, including during designated emergency periods. *Essential caregivers* are individuals who are designated by facility residents to provide them with daily living assistance or emotional support or companionship.

Specifically, the bill generally prohibits Medicare skilled nursing facilities, Medicaid nursing facilities, Medicaid intermediate care facilities, and associated inpatient rehabilitation facilities from restricting the access of essential caregivers to residents of the facilities, including during emergency periods in which visitation rights are otherwise restricted. During emergency periods, facilities may restrict access for an initial period of up to seven days and for one additional maximum seven-day period (if the additional period is approved by the state health department). Facilities may restrict access for a total of 7 days (or 14 days with the approval of the state health department) during an emergency period.

Essential caregivers must agree to comply with any safety protocols set by the facility, which may be no more stringent for caregivers compared to those for staff. Caregivers who fail to comply with these requirements may be denied access, subject to an appeals process.

Actions Timeline

- **May 8, 2024:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 8, 2024:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.