

## HR 6485

Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act of 2023

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Families

**Introduced:** Nov 28, 2023

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Work and Welfare.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Work and Welfare. (Dec 17, 2024)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6485>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Kelly, Mike [R-PA-16]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** PA • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cloud, Michael [R-TX-27]	R · TX		Nov 28, 2023
Rep. Gooden, Lance [R-TX-5]	R · TX		Nov 28, 2023
Rep. Lesko, Debbie [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Nov 28, 2023
Rep. Miller, Carol D. [R-WV-1]	R · WV		Nov 28, 2023
Rep. Miller, Mary E. [R-IL-15]	R · IL		Nov 28, 2023
Rep. Moore, Barry [R-AL-2]	R · AL		Nov 28, 2023
Rep. Reschenthaler, Guy [R-PA-14]	R · PA		Nov 28, 2023
Rep. Smith, Adrian [R-NE-3]	R · NE		Nov 28, 2023
Rep. Smucker, Lloyd [R-PA-11]	R · PA		Nov 28, 2023
Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]	R · WA		Nov 29, 2023
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		Nov 29, 2023
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Nov 29, 2023
Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. [R-AL-4]	R · AL		Dec 14, 2023
Rep. Hinson, Ashley [R-IA-2]	R · IA		Jan 10, 2024

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 17, 2024

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Families

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 3344	Identical bill	<b>Nov 27, 2023:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

## Summary (as of Nov 28, 2023)

### Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act of 2023

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

- **Dec 17, 2024:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Work and Welfare.
- **Nov 28, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 28, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

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