

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	Nov 27, 2023: 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.