

S 652

Safe Step Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 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. (Mar 2, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/652>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]

Party: Republican • **State:** AK • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (48 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY]	R · WY		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Marshall, Roger [R-KS]	R · KS		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [I-AZ]	I · AZ		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Mar 15, 2023
Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]	D · GA		Mar 15, 2023
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Apr 20, 2023
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		May 1, 2023
Sen. Kelly, Mark [D-AZ]	D · AZ		May 1, 2023
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		May 1, 2023
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		May 1, 2023
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		May 16, 2023
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		May 16, 2023
Sen. Ossoff, Jon [D-GA]	D · GA		May 16, 2023
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 1, 2023
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jun 22, 2023
Sen. Budd, Ted [R-NC]	R · NC		Jul 12, 2023
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Jul 12, 2023
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Jul 13, 2023
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		Jul 20, 2023
Sen. Fetterman, John [D-PA]	D · PA		Sep 12, 2023
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Sep 26, 2023
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Sep 26, 2023
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Oct 17, 2023
Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]	D · CO		Mar 19, 2024
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		May 1, 2024
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		May 1, 2024

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 25, 2024
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Sep 17, 2024
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Sep 18, 2024
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Sep 24, 2024
Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]	D · VT		Nov 12, 2024
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Nov 20, 2024
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Dec 11, 2024

Committee Activity

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

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 1339	Related bill	Jun 22, 2023: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 113.
118 HR 2630	Identical bill	Apr 13, 2023: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Summary (as of Mar 2, 2023)

Safe Step Act

This bill requires a group health plan to establish an exception to medication step-therapy protocol in specified cases. A medication step-therapy protocol establishes a specific sequence in which prescription drugs are covered by a group health plan or a health insurance issuer.

A request for such an exception to the protocol must be granted if (1) an otherwise required treatment has been ineffective, (2) such treatment is expected to be ineffective and delaying effective treatment would lead to irreversible consequences, (3) such treatment will cause or is likely to cause an adverse reaction to the individual, (4) such treatment is expected to prevent the individual from performing daily activities or occupational responsibilities, (5) the individual is stable based on the prescription drugs already selected, or (6) there are other circumstances as determined by the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

The bill requires a group health plan to implement and make readily available a clear process for an individual to request an exception to the protocol, including required information and criteria for granting an exception. The bill further specifies timelines under which plans must respond to such requests.

Actions Timeline

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