

S 923

Better Mental Health Care for Americans Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 22, 2023

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Mar 22, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/923>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CO • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 22, 2023
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Feb 8, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 22, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Better Mental Health Care for Americans Act

This bill modifies programs and payment rates for behavioral health services under Medicare, Medicare Advantage, the Medicare prescription drug benefit, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

For example, the bill provides for specialized payment under the Medicare physician fee schedule of certain mental health and substance use disorder services that are integrated into primary care practice, such as preventive screenings and telehealth treatment. It also establishes and provides funds for a Medicaid demonstration program to provide such services to children in a variety of settings, including schools and hospitals.

The bill also requires Medicare Advantage and Medicare prescription drug benefit plans to offer mental health and substance use disorder benefits in a manner that is no more restrictive than other benefits with respect to financial and treatment requirements (i.e., parity in benefits). Additionally, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services must audit state Medicaid and CHIP programs with respect to parity requirements and post its related enforcement actions on its website; the bill provides funds for these purposes.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 22, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
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