

Put Kids First! Co-sponsor the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act (S. 1544/H.R. 3089)

The Need for Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act

Children on Medicaid, in particular children with medical complexities, often travel to different states to receive care when the services they need are not available in their own state. Often time children seeking care in other states experience delays because some state Medicaid programs require out-of-state providers to be screened and enrolled into their program even if the provider is already enrolled and in good standing with their state Medicaid program and in Medicare. This process of enrolling in multiple Medicaid programs consumes valuable time and resources, increases program costs and, most importantly, delays children's access to care.

Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act will:

- Streamline the enrollment process by creating a new pathway for pediatric providers to enroll in multiple state Medicaid programs if certain requirements are met, including that they are in the lowest category for potential program integrity issues and are enrolled in their home state Medicaid program.
- Providers eligible for this streamlined pathway would be those caring for children and adults whose conditions onset before age 18. This is meant to improve continuity of care and recognizes that some specialty care to young adults may still be provided by pediatric providers (e.g., Duchenne, spinal muscular atrophy, sickle cell, young adult cancers).

Importantly, the legislation focuses only on the screening and enrollment of providers and not on authorization of care by an out-of-state provider nor payment rates for any such care, leaving both issues within the purview of state Medicaid agencies.

How to support the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act

The Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act has strong bipartisan support in Congress with Sens. Grassley, R-Iowa, Bennet, D-Colo., Portman, R-Ohio, and Brown, D-Ohio introducing [S. 1544](#) and Reps. Clark, D-Mass., and Herrera Beutler, R-Wash. introducing [H.R. 3089](#).

This legislation will improve children's access to essential health care, while streamlining the Medicaid provider screening and enrollment process. **We ask lawmakers to please co-sponsor S. 1544/H.R. 3089 and for Congress to enact the bipartisan Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act this year.**