

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1520

To prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK (for herself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ISSA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. SESSIONS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3        **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This Act may be cited as the “Charlotte Woodward  
5        Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act”.

6        **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7        In this Act:

8                (1) **AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES.**—The term  
9        “auxiliary aids and services” has the meaning given

1 the term in section 4 of the Americans with Disabil-  
2 ities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12103).

3 (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-  
4 tity” means any licensed provider of health care  
5 services (including licensed health care practitioners,  
6 hospitals, nursing facilities, laboratories, inter-  
7 mediate care facilities, psychiatric residential treat-  
8 ment facilities, institutions for individuals with intel-  
9 lectual or developmental disabilities, and prison  
10 health centers), and any transplant hospital (as de-  
11 fined in section 121.2 of title 42, Code of Federal  
12 Regulations or a successor regulation), that—

13 (A) is in interstate commerce; or

14 (B) provides health care services in a man-  
15 ner that—

16 (i) substantially affects or has a sub-  
17 stantial relation to interstate commerce; or

18 (ii) includes use of an instrument (in-  
19 cluding an instrument of transportation or  
20 communication) of interstate commerce.

21 (3) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the  
22 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Ameri-  
23 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
24 12102).

1           (4) HUMAN ORGAN.—The term “human organ”  
2           has the meaning given the term in section 301(c) of  
3           the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C.  
4           274e(c)).

5           (5) ORGAN TRANSPLANT.—The term “organ  
6           transplant” means the transplantation or trans-  
7           fusion of a donated human organ into the body of  
8           another human for the purpose of treating a medical  
9           condition.

10          (6) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “quali-  
11          fied individual” means an individual who, with or  
12          without a support network, provision of auxiliary  
13          aids and services, or reasonable modifications to  
14          policies or practices, meets eligibility requirements  
15          for the receipt of a human organ.

16          (7) REASONABLE MODIFICATIONS TO POLICIES  
17          OR PRACTICES.—The term “reasonable modifications  
18          to policies or practices” includes—

19                 (A) communication with persons respon-  
20                 sible for supporting a qualified individual with  
21                 postsurgical or other care following an organ  
22                 transplant or related services, including support  
23                 with medication;

24                 (B) consideration, in determining whether  
25                 a qualified individual will be able to comply

1 with health requirements following an organ  
2 transplant or receipt of related services, of sup-  
3 port networks available to the qualified indi-  
4 vidual, including family, friends, and providers  
5 of home and community-based services, includ-  
6 ing home and community-based services funded  
7 through the Medicare or Medicaid program  
8 under title XVIII or XIX, respectively, of the  
9 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.,  
10 1396 et seq.), another health plan in which the  
11 qualified individual is enrolled, or any program  
12 or source of funding available to the qualified  
13 individual; and

14 (C) the use of supported decision-making,  
15 when needed, by a qualified individual.

16 (8) RELATED SERVICES.—The term “related  
17 services” means services related to an organ trans-  
18 plant that consist of—

19 (A) evaluation;

20 (B) counseling;

21 (C) treatment, including postoperative  
22 treatment, and care;

23 (D) provision of information; and

24 (E) any other service recommended or re-  
25 quired by a physician.

1           (9) SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING.—The term  
2           “supported decision-making” means the use of a  
3           support person to assist a qualified individual in  
4           making health care decisions, communicate informa-  
5           tion to the qualified individual, or ascertain a quali-  
6           fied individual’s wishes. Such term includes—

7                   (A) the inclusion of the individual’s attor-  
8                   ney-in-fact or health care proxy, or any person  
9                   of the individual’s choice, in communications  
10                  about the individual’s health care;

11                  (B) permitting the individual to designate  
12                  a person of the individual’s choice for the pur-  
13                  poses of supporting that individual in commu-  
14                  nicating, processing information, or making  
15                  health care decisions;

16                  (C) providing auxiliary aids and services to  
17                  facilitate the individual’s ability to communicate  
18                  and process health-related information, includ-  
19                  ing providing use of assistive communication  
20                  technology;

21                  (D) providing health information to per-  
22                  sons designated by the individual, consistent  
23                  with the regulations promulgated under section  
24                  264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and  
25                  Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1320d–

1           2 note) and other applicable laws and regula-  
2           tions governing disclosure of health informa-  
3           tion;

4           (E) providing health information in a for-  
5           mat that is readily understandable by the indi-  
6           vidual; and

7           (F) working with a court-appointed guard-  
8           ian or other person responsible for making  
9           health care decisions on behalf of the individual,  
10          to ensure that the individual is included in deci-  
11          sions involving the health care of the individual  
12          and that health care decisions are in accordance  
13          with the individual's own expressed interests.

14          (10) SUPPORT NETWORK.—The term “support  
15          network” means, with respect to a qualified indi-  
16          vidual, 1 or more people who are—

17                (A) selected by the qualified individual or  
18                by the qualified individual and the guardian of  
19                the qualified individual, to provide assistance to  
20                the qualified individual or guidance to that  
21                qualified individual in understanding issues,  
22                making plans for the future, or making complex  
23                decisions; and

24                (B) who may include the family members,  
25                friends, unpaid supporters, members of the reli-

1           gious congregation, and appropriate personnel  
2           at a community center, of or serving the quali-  
3           fied individual.

4 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATORY POLICY.**

5           The board of directors described in section  
6 372(b)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
7 274(b)(1)(B)) shall not issue policies, recommendations,  
8 or other memoranda that would prohibit, or otherwise  
9 hinder, a qualified individual's access to an organ trans-  
10 plant solely on the basis of that individual's disability.

11 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION.**

12           (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), a cov-  
13 ered entity may not, solely on the basis of a qualified indi-  
14 vidual's disability—

15           (1) determine that the individual is ineligible to  
16 receive an organ transplant or related services;

17           (2) deny the individual an organ transplant or  
18 related services;

19           (3) refuse to refer the individual to an organ  
20 transplant center or other related specialist for the  
21 purpose of receipt of an organ transplant or other  
22 related services; or

23           (4) refuse to place the individual on an organ  
24 transplant waiting list.

25           (b) EXCEPTION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—

2 (A) MEDICALLY SIGNIFICANT DISABIL-  
3 ITIES.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a cov-  
4 ered entity may take a qualified individual’s  
5 disability into account when making a health  
6 care treatment or coverage recommendation or  
7 decision, solely to the extent that the disability  
8 has been found by a physician, following an in-  
9 dividualized evaluation of the potential recipi-  
10 ent, to be medically significant to the receipt of  
11 the organ transplant or related services, as the  
12 case may be.

13 (B) CONSTRUCTION.—Subparagraph (A)  
14 shall not be construed to require a referral or  
15 recommendation for, or the performance of, a  
16 medically inappropriate organ transplant or  
17 medically inappropriate related services.

18 (2) CLARIFICATION.—If a qualified individual  
19 has the necessary support network to provide a rea-  
20 sonable assurance that the qualified individual will  
21 be able to comply with health requirements following  
22 an organ transplant or receipt of related services, as  
23 the case may be, the qualified individual’s inability  
24 to independently comply with those requirements

1        may not be construed to be medically significant for  
2        purposes of paragraph (1).

3        (c) REASONABLE MODIFICATIONS.—A covered entity  
4        shall make reasonable modifications to policies or practices  
5        (including procedures) of such entity if such modifications  
6        are necessary to make an organ transplant or related serv-  
7        ices available to qualified individuals with disabilities, un-  
8        less the entity can demonstrate that making such modi-  
9        fications would fundamentally alter the nature of such  
10       policies or practices.

11       (d) CLARIFICATIONS.—

12            (1) NO DENIAL OF SERVICES BECAUSE OF AB-  
13        SENCE OF AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES.—For  
14        purposes of this section, a covered entity shall take  
15        such steps as may be necessary to ensure that a  
16        qualified individual with a disability is not denied a  
17        procedure associated with the receipt of an organ  
18        transplant or related services, because of the absence  
19        of auxiliary aids and services, unless the covered en-  
20        tity can demonstrate that taking such steps would  
21        fundamentally alter the nature of the procedure  
22        being offered or would result in an undue burden on  
23        the entity.

24            (2) COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAW.—Nothing  
25        in this section shall be construed—

1 (A) to prevent a covered entity from pro-  
2 viding organ transplants or related services at  
3 a level that is greater than the level that is re-  
4 quired by this section; or

5 (B) to limit the rights of an individual with  
6 a disability under, or to replace or limit the  
7 scope of obligations imposed by, the Americans  
8 with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101  
9 et seq.) including the provisions added to such  
10 Act by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, sec-  
11 tion 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29  
12 U.S.C. 794), section 1557 of the Patient Pro-  
13 tection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C.  
14 18116), or any other applicable law.

15 (e) ENFORCEMENT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any individual who alleges  
17 that a qualified individual was subject to a violation  
18 of this section by a covered entity may bring a claim  
19 regarding the allegation to the Office for Civil  
20 Rights of the Department of Health and Human  
21 Services, for expedited resolution, as appropriate.

22 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this  
23 subsection is intended to limit or replace available  
24 remedies under the Americans with Disabilities Act

1 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) or any other ap-  
2 plicable law.

3 **SEC. 5. APPLICATION TO EACH PART OF PROCESS.**

4 The provisions of this Act—

5 (1) that apply to an organ transplant, also  
6 apply to the evaluation and listing of a qualified in-  
7 dividual, and to the organ transplant and post-  
8 organ-transplant treatment of such an individual;  
9 and

10 (2) that apply to related services, also apply to  
11 the process for receipt of related services by such an  
12 individual.

13 **SEC. 6. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.**

14 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede  
15 any provision of any State or local law that provides great-  
16 er rights to qualified individuals with respect to organ  
17 transplants than the rights established under this Act.

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