

# Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act

In July 2023, Senators Grassley (R-Iowa) and Bennet (D-Colorado) plan to re-introduce the bipartisan Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act to help families access life-saving care for children with complex medical conditions. The legislation aims to facilitate access to care, retains program safeguards, and reduces regulatory red tape on providers.

## **Background**

Children with complex medical needs cannot always receive the highly specialized care they need within their home state. When that happens, parents must work with health care providers and state Medicaid officials to find out-of-state providers able to provide necessary medical care. The process is difficult and burdensome, delaying desperately needed care for children. In some cases, kids do not receive life-saving care at all.

- The Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act would provide states with the ability to use a streamlined screening and enrollment process for out-of-state pediatric care providers that need to enroll in another state's Medicaid program and safeguards important program integrity processes. This would help reduce the red tape and regulatory burdens that slow down or, in certain cases, prohibit children from receiving the care they need.
- This legislation builds on Grassley and Bennet's bipartisan *Advancing Care for Exceptional (ACE) Kids Act* that was signed into law in 2019. In 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services fully implemented the *ACE Kids Act*.

## **117<sup>th</sup> Congress Legislation**

The Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act was introduced in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress garnering 25 cosponsors. The legislation was included in the Senate Finance Committee's bipartisan mental health work group effort.

## **Become an Original Cosponsor**

To join as an original cosponsor, please contact Nic Pottebaum with Senator Grassley ([Nic\\_Pottebaum@grassley.senate.gov](mailto:Nic_Pottebaum@grassley.senate.gov)) and Santiago Gonzalez with Senator Bennet ([Santiago\\_Gonzalez@bennet.senate.gov](mailto:Santiago_Gonzalez@bennet.senate.gov)). **The deadline for original cosponsors is Friday, July 7, 2023.**