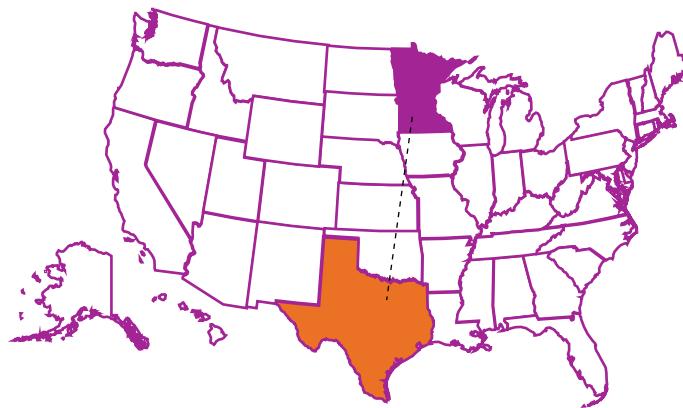


ACCELERATING KIDS' ACCESS TO CARE ACT

H.R. 4758/S.2372

Background

Pediatric patients covered by Medicaid face many access barriers when seeking life-changing cell or gene therapies. Given the highly specialized nature of cell and gene therapies, manufacturers often have limited treatment centers onboard to provide care. It is not uncommon for patients to travel to an out-of-state treatment center for cell or gene therapy, creating an administrative challenge in provider credentialing and potentially delaying necessary care.



Legend

Medicaid patient's state of residence
location of specialized CGT providers

Providers seeking to treat nonresident Medicaid beneficiaries must become enrolled in, and credentialed by, the Medicaid program in the patient's home state. Each state Medicaid program establishes and administers its own credentialing program and the rules and procedures can vary, creating an arduous and costly patchwork of state-specific credentialing requirements.

A recent example illustrates the life-threatening nature of this access issue: a 3-year-old Medicaid beneficiary in Texas with a rare lysosomal storage disease needed a gene therapy treatment that was only available to him at the nearest specialized center in Minnesota.

"At one point, it seemed as though every provider in Minnesota that might care for the child — and ultimately bill for the care provided — would have to be credentialed as a Texas Medicaid provider, including surgeons, brain specialists."

Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act

H.R. 4758 was introduced by Representatives Trahan (D-MA-03) and Miller-Meeks (R-IA-01) in July 2023 and has been advanced by the Energy and Commerce Committee.

S.2372 was introduced by Senators Grassley (R-IA) and Bennet (D-CO) in July 2023.

The Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act will reduce care delays for pediatric Medicaid patients traveling out-of-state for specialized care, including CGT treatment.

This legislation requires state Medicaid programs to establish a process through which qualifying out-of-state providers may enroll as participating providers for five years without undergoing additional screening requirements, unless the state has an agreement with other states that governs coverage of children with medically complex conditions. Among other requirements, a qualifying provider must:

01

Serve individuals under the age of 21

02

Have previously been screened for Medicare participation or for participation in the Medicaid program of the state in which the provider is located

03

Have been determined by the CMS or state Medicaid program to pose a limited risk of fraud, waste, or abuse

The Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act alleviates administrative burden for specialized providers and the Medicaid patients they treat while preserving critical program integrity safeguards.



The Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act has been endorsed by Childrens Hospital Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, EveryLife Foundation, Leukemia & Lymphoma Foundation, National Organization for Rare Disorders, Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia, ASTCT, Family Voices, and over 200 more organizations.

Please co-sponsor H.R. 4758/S. 2372 and urge Congress to pass the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act!