

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish a grant program to fund reproductive health patient navigators for individuals seeking abortion services.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. CORTEZ MASTO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## **A BILL**

To establish a grant program to fund reproductive health patient navigators for individuals seeking abortion services.

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 “Reproductive Health  
5 Patient Navigator Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) As the legal hurdles to abortion services in-  
9 crease, so does the complexity of navigating access  
10 to these essential reproductive health services.

1           (2) Community-based organizations like abor-  
2           tion funds are connecting people to abortions, by  
3           working with individuals to navigate an ever-evolving  
4           landscape of reproductive health care.

5           (3) Abortion funds have been helping individ-  
6           uals navigate the complexity of abortion services for  
7           decades and are well placed to lead patient naviga-  
8           tion programs.

9   **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM FOR REPRO-**  
10                           **DUCTIVE HEALTH PATIENT NAVIGATORS.**

11           Subpart V of part D of title III of the Public Health  
12           Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256 et seq.) is amended by adding  
13           at the end the following:

14   **“SEC. 340A-1. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM FOR**  
15                           **REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PATIENT NAVIGA-**  
16                           **TORS.**

17           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
18           grant program to support eligible entities for purposes of  
19           serving as reproductive health patient navigators for indi-  
20           viduals seeking to access abortion services in order to con-  
21           nect those individuals to abortion services.

22           “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive  
23           a grant under this section, an entity shall—

24                   “(1) be an abortion fund or other nonprofit or-  
25                   ganization, a community-based organization, a

1 State, local governmental entity, or Tribal govern-  
2 ment that, through programs, services, or activities  
3 that are unbiased and medically- and factually-accurate,  
4 assists individuals seeking abortion services;  
5 and

6 “(2) submit an application to the Secretary, at  
7 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
8 formation as the Secretary may require, including a  
9 plan for—

10 “(A) establishing and operating a program  
11 of patient navigator services to help individuals  
12 seeking abortion services access abortion serv-  
13 ices, as described in subsection (c); and

14 “(B) ensuring that any personally identifi-  
15 able patient data obtained through the oper-  
16 ation of such program is kept confidential.

17 “(c) ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity receiving a grant  
18 under this section shall use such funds for one or more  
19 of the following activities related to abortion services:

20 “(1) Offering individuals seeking abortion serv-  
21 ices medically-accurate, culturally- and linguistically-  
22 appropriate services and resources.

23 “(2) Coordinating financing resources for trav-  
24 el-related costs, including transportation, childcare,  
25 and lodging.

1           “(3) Coordinating abortion services, including  
2 identifying available abortion providers and sched-  
3 uling appointments.

4           “(4) Providing emotional wellness and doula  
5 support to individuals accessing abortion services.

6           “(5) Providing individuals seeking abortion  
7 services with unbiased and medically and factually  
8 accurate reproductive health information to support  
9 individuals’ informed decision-making.

10           “(6) Developing partnerships with local commu-  
11 nity organizations providing services for which eligi-  
12 ble entity provides assistance, abortion service pro-  
13 viders, and other patient navigators, such as patient  
14 navigators receiving grants under section 340A.

15           “(7) Assisting with understanding reimburse-  
16 ment and health insurance coverage options, includ-  
17 ing completing eligibility and enrollment forms.

18           “(8) Assisting with understanding where abor-  
19 tion services are legal and the ways in which abor-  
20 tion services may be restricted.

21           “(d) PATIENT NAVIGATOR PROTECTIONS.—

22           “(1) IN GENERAL.—No individual, entity, or  
23 State may prevent, restrict, impede, or disadvantage  
24 an entity eligible to receive a grant under this sec-  
25 tion by nature of delivering services described in

1 subsection (c), or any affiliate of such an entity or  
2 individual or other entity collaborating with such an  
3 entity, from—

4 “(A) providing or assisting a health care  
5 provider, or any other person, with eligible serv-  
6 ices described in subsection (c) related to repro-  
7 ductive health care services—

8 “(i) lawful in the State in which serv-  
9 ices are to be provided; or

10 “(ii) provided for an individual who  
11 does not reside in the State in which the  
12 services are to be provided; or

13 “(B) carrying out the activities described  
14 in this section in any State, including any State  
15 in which abortion services are not lawful.

16 “(2) ENFORCEMENT.—

17 “(A) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney  
18 General may commence a civil action on behalf  
19 of the United States against any State, or  
20 against any government official, individual, or  
21 entity that enacts, implements, or enforces a  
22 limitation or requirement that violates para-  
23 graph (1). The court shall hold unlawful and  
24 set aside the limitation or requirement if it is  
25 in violation of paragraph (1).

1           “(B) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Any re-  
2           productive health patient navigator adversely  
3           affected by an alleged violation of paragraph  
4           (1) may commence a civil action against any  
5           State that violates this subsection, against any  
6           government official that enacts, implements, or  
7           enforces a limitation or requirement that vio-  
8           lates paragraph (1), or against any individual  
9           who, pursuant to State law, prevents, restricts,  
10          impedes, or disadvantages the entity from car-  
11          rying out activities in violation of paragraph  
12          (1). The court shall hold unlawful and enjoin  
13          the limitation or requirement if it is in violation  
14          of paragraph (1).

15          “(C) EQUITABLE RELIEF.—In any action  
16          under this subsection, the court may award ap-  
17          propriate equitable relief, including temporary,  
18          preliminary, or permanent injunctive relief.

19          “(D) COSTS.—In any action under this  
20          subsection, the court shall award costs of litiga-  
21          tion, as well as reasonable attorney’s fees, to  
22          any prevailing plaintiff. A plaintiff shall not be  
23          liable to a defendant for costs or attorney’s fees  
24          in any nonfrivolous action under this sub-  
25          section.

1           “(E) JURISDICTION.—The district courts  
2 of the United States shall have jurisdiction over  
3 proceedings under this subsection and shall ex-  
4 ercise the same without regard to whether the  
5 party aggrieved shall have exhausted any ad-  
6 ministrative or other remedies that may be pro-  
7 vided for by law.

8           “(F) ABROGATION OF STATE IMMUNITY.—  
9 Neither a State that enforces or maintains, nor  
10 a government official who is permitted to imple-  
11 ment or enforce, any limitation or requirement  
12 that violates paragraph (1) shall be immune  
13 under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitu-  
14 tion of the United States, the Eleventh Amend-  
15 ment to the Constitution of the United States,  
16 or any other source of law, from an action in  
17 a Federal or State court of competent jurisdic-  
18 tion challenging that limitation or requirement.

19           “(G) RIGHT TO REMOVE.—Any party shall  
20 have a right to remove an action brought under  
21 this subsection to the district court of the  
22 United States for the district and division em-  
23 bracing the place where such action is pending.  
24 An order remanding the case to the State court  
25 from which it was removed under this para-

1 graph may be immediately reviewable by appeal  
2 or otherwise.

3 “(e) FUNDING.—There are appropriated, for fiscal  
4 years 2023 through 2027, out of amounts in the Treasury  
5 not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be nec-  
6 essary for purposes of carrying out this section.”.