

S 2939

National Guard and Reserve Mental Health Access Act of 2008

**Congress:** 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Apr 30, 2008

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. (Apr 30, 2008)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/2939>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 30, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 6075	Related bill	<b>Jun 23, 2008:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

National Guard and Reserve Mental Health Access Act of 2008 - Requires the Secretary of Defense to: (1) provide for the implementation of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program for members of the National Guard and reserves and their families required by section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 by not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and (2) report to the congressional defense committees on that Program's implementation.

Directs the Secretary to carry out a joint psychological health program to: (1) increase access to and the provision of psychological health care and related services for members of the National Guard following their deployment, and their families; (2) improve coordination among DOD components in the provision of such care during members' transition from active duty to civilian life; and (3) coordinate and oversee DOD efforts to assist members of the National Guard with mental illness and members with traumatic brain injury post-deployment.

Requires the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to establish the National Guard Psychological Health Council.

Directs the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to jointly carry out: (1) one or more pilot programs on the provision of mental health services to members of the National Guard and reserves, both before and after deployment, through telemental health technologies; and (2) an outreach program intended to reduce the stigma, among members of the National Guard and reserves returning from deployment, and their families, associated with seeking and obtaining mental health services.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Apr 30, 2008:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 30, 2008:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S3596)
- **Apr 30, 2008:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.