

S 3374

Healing Our Nation's Heroes Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jul 31, 2008

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7910-7914) (Jul 31, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/3374>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Smith, Gordon H. [R-OR]

Party: Republican • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 31, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 31, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Healing Our Nation's Heroes Act of 2008 - Establishes a commission on veterans and members of the Armed Forces (members) with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), or other mental health disorders caused by military service. Requires the commission to: (1) oversee the monitoring and treatment of veterans and members with such disorders; and (2) conduct a study of the long-term adverse consequences of such disorders for such veterans and members.

Authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Secretary) to carry out a program, to be known as the Heroes-to-Healers Program, to assist veterans and members separating from service to: (1) obtain certification as mental health care providers; and (2) find employment with federal, state, and local agencies and nongovernmental organizations that provide mental health care to members, veterans, and their families. Requires participants, following certification, to work for at least five years in such mental health care capacity, but authorizes the Secretary to waive such requirement when considered appropriate. Authorizes the Secretary of Education to pay a bonus of up to \$10,000 to a Program participant who agrees to such service.

Authorizes the Secretary of Education to establish a program to award grants to encourage state and local mental health agencies and other entities to establish, expand, or enhance mental health provider recruitment and retention efforts. Requires participants who receive training through the program to serve at a high-need medical facility or agency for at least three years.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 31, 2008:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 31, 2008:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S7909-7910)
- **Jul 31, 2008:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7910-7914)