

## S 479

Joshua Omgig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act

**Congress:** 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** Feb 1, 2007

**Current Status:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S11097-11101)

**Latest Action:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S11097-11101) (Sep 5, 2007)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/479>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]

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

Cosponsors (31 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Brownback, Sam [R-KS]	R · KS		Feb 1, 2007
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 1, 2007
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Feb 1, 2007
Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 1, 2007
Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 1, 2007
Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]	D · WV		Feb 1, 2007
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 1, 2007
Sen. Smith, Gordon H. [R-OR]	R · OR		Feb 1, 2007
Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]	R · ME		Feb 1, 2007
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Feb 1, 2007
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 6, 2007
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Feb 14, 2007
Sen. Clinton, Hillary Rodham [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 14, 2007
Sen. Reid, Harry [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 14, 2007
Sen. Voinovich, George V. [R-OH]	R · OH		Feb 16, 2007
Sen. Coleman, Norm [R-MN]	R · MN		Mar 7, 2007
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 15, 2007
Sen. Chambliss, Saxby [R-GA]	R · GA		Mar 28, 2007
Sen. Baucus, Max [D-MT]	D · MT		Apr 10, 2007
Sen. Domenici, Pete V. [R-NM]	R · NM		Apr 17, 2007
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Apr 19, 2007
Sen. Obama, Barack [D-IL]	D · IL		Apr 23, 2007
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Apr 24, 2007
Sen. Dorgan, Byron L. [D-ND]	D · ND		May 8, 2007
Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 10, 2007
Sen. Lincoln, Blanche L. [D-AR]	D · AR		May 10, 2007
Sen. Johnson, Tim [D-SD]	D · SD		Jun 12, 2007
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 25, 2007
Sen. Stevens, Ted [R-AK]	R · AK		Jun 25, 2007
Sen. Biden, Joseph R., Jr. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jul 12, 2007
Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]	R · WY		Jul 23, 2007

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jul 23, 2007

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 327	Related bill	Nov 5, 2007: Became Public Law No: 110-110.

## Summary (as of Jul 23, 2007)

**(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary has been expanded because action occurred on the measure.)**

Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act - Expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) suicide among veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a serious problem; and (2) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should take into consideration the special needs of veterans suffering from PTSD in developing and implementing the program required under this Act.

Directs the Secretary to develop and implement a comprehensive program for reducing the incidence of suicide among veterans.

Requires the program to include: (1) a national mental health campaign to increase mental health awareness in the veteran community; (2) mandatory training on suicide and suicide prevention for appropriate Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees and contractor personnel; (3) family education and peer support counseling; (4) veterans' health assessments, counseling, and treatment programs; (5) suicide prevention counselors; (6) research on suicide prevention; (7) treatment programs for veterans suffering from substance abuse; (8) 24-hour veterans' mental health care availability; and (9) a toll-free hotline.

Requires a report from the Secretary to Congress on VA programs and activities to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans.

## Actions Timeline

- **Sep 5, 2007:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S11097-11101)
- **Jul 23, 2007:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Reported by Senator Akaka without amendment. With written report No. 110-132.
- **Jul 23, 2007:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 279.
- **Jun 27, 2007:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Apr 25, 2007:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 110-89.
- **Feb 1, 2007:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 1, 2007:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S1529-1530)
- **Feb 1, 2007:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.