

S 658

Rural Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Mar 19, 2009

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-76.

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-76. (Apr 22, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/658>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

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

Cosponsors (11 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Begich, Mark [D-AK]	D · AK		Apr 20, 2009
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Apr 20, 2009
Sen. Burriss, Roland [D-IL]	D · IL		Apr 28, 2009
Sen. Lincoln, Blanche L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Apr 28, 2009
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		May 13, 2009
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 18, 2009
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jun 22, 2009
Sen. Pryor, Mark L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Sep 17, 2009
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Oct 15, 2009
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Nov 10, 2009
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Sep 28, 2010

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Apr 22, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 2879	Identical bill	Mar 25, 2010: Subcommittee Hearings Held.
111 HR 4006	Related bill	Mar 25, 2010: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

Rural Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2009 - Authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay travel expenses for veterans receiving treatment at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities at the rate of 41.5 cents per mile. (Under current law the rate is that provided to federal employees in connection with the performance of official duties.)

Directs the Secretary to: (1) establish and operate at least one and up to five centers of excellence for rural health research, education, and clinical activities; (2) establish a grant program to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas; (3) carry out demonstration projects to examine alternatives for expanding care for veterans in rural areas; (4) establish a program to provide peer support, readjustment, and mental health services to veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom (and related services to their family members); (5) assign an Indian Veterans Health Care Coordinator for each of the ten VA facilities that serve communities with the greatest per capita number of Indian veterans; (6) report to Congress jointly with the Secretary of Health and Human Services on the advisability of the joint establishment and operation by the VA's Veterans Health Administration and the Indian Health Service of health clinics to serve populations of Indian reservations, including Indian veterans; and (7) report annually to Congress on matters related to VA care for veterans residing in rural areas.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 22, 2009:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-76.
- **Mar 19, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 19, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.