

## HR 5686

Physician Ambassadors Helping Veterans Act

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Nov 12, 2014

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Nov 25, 2014)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/5686>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Culberson, John Abney [R-TX-7]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Nov 12, 2014
Rep. Huelskamp, Tim [R-KS-1]	R · KS		Nov 14, 2014
Rep. Olson, Pete [R-TX-22]	R · TX		Nov 14, 2014
Rep. Farenthold, Blake [R-TX-27]	R · TX		Nov 17, 2014
Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Nov 17, 2014
Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D-MN-1]	D · MN		Nov 18, 2014
Rep. Thornberry, Mac [R-TX-13]	R · TX		Dec 1, 2014
Rep. Hensarling, Jeb [R-TX-5]	R · TX		Dec 9, 2014

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 25, 2014

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 S 2950	Identical bill	Nov 20, 2014: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Physician Ambassadors Helping Veterans Act - Requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to use the Secretary's authority to employ certain personnel without regard to civil service or classification laws, rules, or regulations to employ physicians on a without compensation basis in any practice area or specialty for which: (1) the average waiting time for veterans seeking an appointment with a physician exceeds the VA's waiting time goals, or (2) the VA facility where the physician will be employed has demonstrated staffing shortages.

Requires each VA medical facility to have a volunteer coordinator who: (1) seeks to establish relationships with medical associations serving the area, (2) recruits physicians for uncompensated employment at the facility, and (3) serves as the initial point of contact for physicians seeking uncompensated employment at the facility.

Conditions an uncompensated physician's receipt of a credential or privilege to practice medicine in a VA facility on the physician's commitment to serve at least 40 hours in the facility during the ensuing 12-month period.

Requires the Secretary to decide whether to grant an uncompensated physician's request for a credential or privilege to practice medicine in the VA facility within 60 days.

Requires the director of a VA medical facility to approve, and accept the uncompensated services of, any physician who has made the requisite service commitment and receives a credential or privilege to practice medicine in such facility.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Nov 25, 2014:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Nov 12, 2014:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 12, 2014:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.