

## HR 1129

### Veterans' Whistleblower and Patient Protection Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Feb 26, 2015

**Current Status:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.

**Latest Action:** Subcommittee Hearings Held. (Mar 19, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1129>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-1]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** AZ • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ-9]	D · AZ		Mar 16, 2015

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Mar 19, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## **Veterans' Whistleblower and Patient Protection Act of 2015**

Establishes within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) an Office of Whistleblower and Patient Protection.

Requires the Director of such Office to establish a dedicated Internet website and toll-free telephone number for any individual to file a complaint regarding an alleged prohibited personnel practice committed by a VA officer or employee or the safety of a patient at a VA medical facility.

Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to refer to the Director for investigation any such complaint the Secretary receives directly. Prohibits the Secretary from referring any such complaint to any other element of the VA.

Requires the Secretary to ensure that VA employees located at a medical facility are able to efficiently refer any such complaints received to the Director. Prohibits the Director from disclosing the identity of any individual who files such a complaint without the individual's consent, except when necessary because of an imminent danger to public health or safety or imminent violation of any criminal law.

Requires the Director to: (1) investigate each complaint to determine whether there is a substantial likelihood that it discloses a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific danger to public health and safety; (2) make such determination within 240 days after its receipt; (3) notify the Secretary upon making a positive determination and refer the complaint, as appropriate, to the head of the appropriate federal department or agency; and (4) coordinate with the VA's Inspector General and Special Counsel to avoid duplicative actions.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Mar 19, 2015:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Mar 13, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.
- **Feb 26, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 26, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.