

S 1893

Mental Health Awareness and Improvement Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jul 29, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Jan 8, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1893>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]

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

Cosponsors (28 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]	R · WY		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL]	R · IL		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jul 29, 2015
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jul 30, 2015
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Aug 3, 2015
Sen. Donnelly, Joe [D-IN]	D · IN		Aug 6, 2015
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Sep 22, 2015
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Oct 19, 2015
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Oct 19, 2015
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Nov 10, 2015
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Nov 18, 2015
Sen. Corker, Bob [R-TN]	R · TN		Nov 19, 2015
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Dec 18, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 8, 2016
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Reported By	Oct 1, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 5327	Related bill	May 25, 2016: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
114 S 2680	Related bill	Apr 26, 2016: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 437.

Mental Health Awareness and Improvement Act of 2015

(Sec. 2) This bill amends the Public Health Service Act to expand the focus of a youth interagency research, training, and technical assistance resource center from youth suicides to suicide at any age, particularly among groups at high risk for suicide. The center is reauthorized through FY2020.

This bill revises and extends through FY2020 grant programs for: (1) the development of state or tribal youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies, (2) enhancement of services for students with mental health or substance use disorders at institutions of higher education, and (3) training school personnel to recognize symptoms of childhood and adolescent mental disorders and safely de-escalate crisis situations involving individuals with a mental illness.

(Sec. 4) The grant program to address violence-related stress must support the continued operation of the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative (NCTSI). The NCTSI coordinating center must report on child treatment and outcomes and facilitate training in evidence-based and trauma-informed treatments, interventions, and practices.

(Sec. 5) The Government Accountability Office (GAO) must report on federal requirements that impact access to treatment of mental health and substance use disorders.

(Sec. 6) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) may advance awareness of products approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat opioid use disorders. (Opioids are drugs with effects similar to opium, such as certain pain medications.)

(Sec. 7) The GAO must report on children's access to mental health services and prescription of psychotropic medications to children.

(Sec. 8) SAMHSA must provide technical assistance to grantees regarding evidence-based practices for the prevention and treatment of geriatric mental health disorders and co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, as well as disseminate information about such practices.

(Sec. 9) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is encouraged to improve the National Violent Death Reporting System.

(Sec. 10) The GAO must evaluate the utilization of mental health services for children and the implementation of recommendations made in "On Issues Raised by the Virginia Tech Tragedy."

(Sec. 11) The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation must evaluate the impact of SAMHSA activities and recommend performance metrics for SAMHSA programs. SAMHSA must advance the use of performance metrics to improve programs.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 8, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jan 5, 2016:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
- **Jan 4, 2016:** Received in the House.
- **Jan 4, 2016:** Held at the desk.
- **Dec 18, 2015:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S8908-8913)
- **Dec 18, 2015:** The committee substitute as amended agreed to by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S8911-8913; text of committee substitute as amended: CR S8908-8910)
- **Dec 18, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(text: CR S8911-8913)
- **Dec 18, 2015:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S8911-8913)
- **Dec 18, 2015:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Oct 1, 2015:** Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Reported by Senator Alexander with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Oct 1, 2015:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 247.
- **Sep 30, 2015:** Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.