

S 2896

Care Veterans Deserve Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Apr 28, 2016

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-702.

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-702. (May 24, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2896>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]

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

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		Apr 28, 2016
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Apr 28, 2016
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Apr 28, 2016
Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]	R · IA		Apr 28, 2016
Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Apr 28, 2016
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Apr 28, 2016
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Apr 28, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	May 24, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 3516	Related bill	Dec 8, 2016: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 717.
114 HR 5262	Related bill	May 17, 2016: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
114 S 2170	Related bill	Nov 18, 2015: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-252.
114 HR 2516	Related bill	Jun 5, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Care Veterans Deserve Act of 2016

This bill amends the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to make the Veterans Choice Program permanent.

Program eligibility is expanded to include all veterans who are enrolled in the annual patient enrollment system under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital care and medical services program.

The VA shall provide information about the availability of Program care and services to veterans who are new to, or already enrolled, in the system.

The VA shall contract with a national chain of walk-in clinics to provide hospital care and medical services in such clinics to veterans who are in the annual patient enrollment system. A veteran shall not be required to: (1) obtain pre-authorization for such care, or (2) pay a copayment to the clinic or to the VA.

Such national chain shall establish an automated system to provide the VA with weekly information on veterans receiving hospital care or medical services.

A covered health care professional may practice his or her health care profession at any location in any state, regardless of where such health care professional or the patient is located, if the health care professional is using telemedicine to treat an individual. Such treatment is permitted regardless of whether the professional or patient is located in a federally-owned facility.

"Covered health care professional" means a health care professional who is: (1) authorized by the VA to provide health care, including a private health care professional who provides such care under a VA contract or agreement; and (2) licensed, registered, or certified in a state to practice his or her health care profession.

The VA shall:

- extend the operating hours for each VA pharmacy to include weekday evenings until 8:00 p.m., weekends, and federal holidays; and
- contract with qualifying physicians and nurses to work at VA medical facilities during nights and weekends.

The VA may: (1) hire support staff in connection with such extended operating hours, and (2) provide for a nongovernmental hospital organization best-practices peer review of each VA medical center.

Actions Timeline

- **May 24, 2016:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-702.
- **Apr 28, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 28, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.