

HR 3978

Ensuring Fair Access to Veterans Healthcare Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Nov 5, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Dec 3, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3978>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Lujan Grisham, Michelle [D-NM-1]

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

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Nov 5, 2015
Rep. McKinley, David B. [R-WV-1]	R · WV		Nov 5, 2015
Rep. Pearce, Stevan [R-NM-2]	R · NM		Nov 5, 2015
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Dec 8, 2015
Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34]	D · TX		Feb 23, 2016
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Apr 18, 2016
Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Sep 26, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 3, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Ensuring Fair Access to Veterans Healthcare Act

This bill establishes in the Veterans Health Administration an Office of the Ombudsman, which shall:

- investigate and resolve complaints made by or on behalf of patients receiving medical care or hospital services at a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility (covered patients) that relate to action, inaction, or decisions made by VA employees that may adversely affect such patients;
- assist covered patients in finding patient advocates, veterans service organizations, or other similar entities to advocate for their health, safety, welfare, and rights;
- ensure that covered patients have regular and timely access to Office services;
- administer the reporting system provided for by this Act; and
- provide training to local ombudsmen and volunteers.

The Office shall establish a reporting system to collect and analyze complaint data in order to determine how to resolve significant VA medical facility problems.

Each VA medical facility shall have a local ombudsman responsible for carrying out the duties of the Office at such location.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 3, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Nov 5, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 5, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.