

## HR 444

### Expanding Care for Veterans Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Jan 21, 2015

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

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Feb 6, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/444>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]

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

## Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]	D · NY		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Mar 25, 2015

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 6, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## **Expanding Care for Veterans Act**

Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to develop a plan to expand the scope of VA's research and education on, and delivery and integration of, complementary and alternative medicine services.

Requires the Secretary to carry out, through VA's Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation, a three-year program to: (1) assess the feasibility and advisability of integrating the delivery of complementary and alternative medicine services selected by the Secretary with other VA health care services for veterans, and (2) identify and resolve barriers to providing such services and integrating them with other VA health services.

Requires such program to be conducted, at not fewer than 15 VA medical centers, by integrating the provision of complementary and alternative medicine services with other VA health care services provided to veterans who have a mental health condition, experience chronic pain, or have a chronic condition. Requires veterans' participation to be voluntary.

Directs the Secretary to contract with a qualified independent entity for comprehensive studies of the barriers encountered by veterans in receiving, and by administrators and clinicians in providing, complementary and alternative medicine services through VA. Provides for the conduct of such studies through surveys of veterans and VA administrators and clinicians.

Requires the Secretary to carry out a three-year program awarding grants to public or private nonprofit entities to assess the feasibility and advisability of using wellness programs to complement the provision of mental health care to veterans and family members who are eligible for readjustment counseling from VA.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Feb 6, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jan 21, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 21, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.