

S 711

Mental Health First Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 11, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Mar 11, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/711>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]

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

Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV]	R · NV		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 11, 2015
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 16, 2015
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		May 4, 2015
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		May 13, 2015
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		May 20, 2015
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		Jun 8, 2015
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Jun 24, 2015
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Sep 30, 2015
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jan 11, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 11, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1877	Related bill	Sep 27, 2016: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
114 HR 4435	Related bill	Feb 10, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.

Summary (as of Mar 11, 2015)

Mental Health First Act of 2015

Amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to award grants to initiate and sustain mental health first aid training programs. Requires such a program to include training on: (1) the skills, resources, and knowledge necessary to assist individuals in crisis to connect with appropriate local mental health care services; (2) mental health resources, including the location of community mental health centers; and (3) protocols for referral to mental health resources.

Sets forth the categories of individuals to be trained under the program, including first responders, law enforcement personnel, teachers and school administrators, human resources professionals, nurses and other primary care personnel, students enrolled in school, parents of students, and veterans and veteran stakeholders.

Requires such programs to train individuals to accomplish safe de-escalation of crisis situations, recognition of the signs and symptoms of mental illness, and timely referral to mental health services in the early stages of developing mental disorders.

Requires SAMHSA to ensure that grants are equitably distributed geographically, and to pay particular attention to the mental health training needs of rural areas.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 11, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 11, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.