

## HR 1152

Care Veterans Deserve Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Feb 16, 2017

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

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Mar 3, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1152>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Hudson, Richard [R-NC-8]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** NC • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2]	D · MD		Feb 16, 2017
Rep. Sanford, Mark [R-SC-1]	R · SC		Jul 17, 2017
Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Jan 16, 2018

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 3, 2017

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 925	Related bill	Jan 5, 2018: Held at the desk.
115 HR 2123	Related bill	Nov 8, 2017: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## **Care Veterans Deserve Act of 2017**

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 veterans with a 50% service-connected disability.

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 a nongovernmental hospital organization best-practices peer review of each VA medical center.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Mar 3, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Feb 16, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 16, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.