

S 1461

HEARTS Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jun 28, 2017

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. (Jun 28, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1461>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 28, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 6886	Related bill	Oct 1, 2018: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
115 HR 2243	Related bill	May 23, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Health Equity and Access for Returning Troops and Servicemembers Act or the HEARTS Act

This bill extends TRICARE eligibility to certain former members of the Armed Forces regardless of whether they enroll (as required under current law) in Medicare's supplementary medical insurance program. Specifically, the bill applies to former members who are: (1) younger than 65 years of age, (2) medically retired from the Armed Forces, and (3) entitled to Medicare hospital insurance benefits on the basis of their former entitlement to disability insurance benefits under the Social Security Act.

Furthermore, these former members shall not be subject to late-enrollment penalties under Medicare's supplemental medical insurance program.

The Department of Defense must coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services to: (1) identify former members to which the bill applies, (2) counsel those former members on the effects of declining to enroll in Medicare's supplemental medical insurance program, and (3) report to Congress on specified issues related to the bill's implementation.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 28, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
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