

## HR 3042

Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Jun 23, 2017

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. (Jun 23, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3042>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Duffy, Sean P. [R-WI-7]

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

### Cosponsors (11 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Young, David [R-IA-3]	R · IA		Sep 27, 2017
Rep. Grothman, Glenn [R-WI-6]	R · WI		Sep 28, 2017
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Sep 28, 2017
Rep. Johnson, Bill [R-OH-6]	R · OH		Oct 2, 2017
Rep. Gallagher, Mike [R-WI-8]	R · WI		Oct 3, 2017
Rep. Bergman, Jack [R-MI-1]	R · MI		Oct 10, 2017
Rep. Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [R-WI-5]	R · WI		Oct 10, 2017
Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-32]	R · TX		Oct 10, 2017
Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Oct 11, 2017
Rep. MacArthur, Thomas [R-NJ-3]	R · NJ		Oct 11, 2017
Rep. Smucker, Lloyd [R-PA-16]	R · PA		Oct 12, 2017

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 23, 2017
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 23, 2017

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 585	Related bill	Oct 26, 2017: Became Public Law No: 115-73.

## **Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017**

This bill directs federal agencies (excluding any entity that is an element of the intelligence community) to give priority to an employee transfer request if the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) grants a stay of a personnel action at the request of: (1) the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) if the OSC determines the personnel action was taken, or is to be taken, as a result of a prohibited personnel practice; or (2) the employee if such employee is in probationary status and seeks corrective action.

The bill: (1) prohibits any employee who has the authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve of any personnel action to access the medical records of another employee or applicant for employment; and (2) authorizes disciplinary action against supervisors for retaliation against whistle-blowers.

Agencies must: (1) refer information about employee suicides to the OSC, (2) train supervisors on responding to complaints alleging whistle-blower protections violations, (3) provide information regarding whistle-blower protections to new employees during probationary periods, (4) inform employees of the role of the OSC and the MSPB with regard to whistle-blower protection, and (5) make information about such protections available on agency websites.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) must: (1) submit a plan to Congress on efforts to prevent any unauthorized access to the medical records of VA employees; (2) conduct an outreach program to inform its employees of any mental health services, including telemedicine options; and (3) ensure protocols are in effect to address threats against VA employees providing health care.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jun 23, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 23, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Jun 23, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.