

## S 426

### Grow Our Own Directive: Physician Assistant Employment and Education Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** Feb 16, 2017

**Current Status:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-320.

**Latest Action:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-320. (Jul 11, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/426>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MT • **Chamber:** Senate

## Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Feb 16, 2017
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Feb 16, 2017
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 17, 2017
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Feb 27, 2017
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Nov 16, 2017

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Jul 11, 2017

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 3262	Related bill	Jul 31, 2017: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## **Grow Our Own Directive: Physician Assistant Employment and Education Act of 2017**

This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to carry out a five-year Grow Our Own Directive (or G.O.O.D.) pilot program to provide educational assistance to certain former members of the Armed Forces for education and training as VA physician assistants in exchange for recipients agreeing to be employed as physician assistants for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) for a specified period at a VA medical facility located in a community designated as a medically underserved population in a state with a per capita population of veterans of more than 9%.

The VA shall: (1) provide at least 35 new scholarships under the pilot program each year, and (2) ensure that at least 25 new scholarships are awarded each year under its health professional and employee incentive scholarship programs for the education and training of physician assistants.

The VA must: (1) establish specified standards to improve its use of educational assistance programs to educate and hire physician assistants, and (2) increase for each of the next five years the scholarship amounts provided under such programs.

The bill establishes pay grades and competitive pay requirements for physician assistants. The VA must implement a national strategic plan for the retention and recruitment of VA physician assistants that includes competitive pay in comparison to the pay of physician assistants in the private sector.

### **Actions Timeline**

---

- **Jul 11, 2017:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-320.
- **Feb 16, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 16, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.