

S 591

Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Mar 9, 2017

Current Status: Special Committee on Aging. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-364.

Latest Action: Special Committee on Aging. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-364. (Jun 14, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/591>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]

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

Cosponsors (35 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 21, 2017
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 22, 2017
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Mar 23, 2017
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Apr 7, 2017
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Apr 24, 2017
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Apr 26, 2017
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		May 18, 2017
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 14, 2017
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 14, 2017
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 19, 2017
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Aug 3, 2017
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Oct 23, 2017
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Oct 24, 2017
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Nov 1, 2017
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Nov 6, 2017
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Nov 7, 2017
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Nov 27, 2017
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 5, 2018
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 20, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Aging (Special) Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Jun 14, 2017
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	May 17, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 1472	Related bill	Apr 5, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Summary (as of Mar 9, 2017)

Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017

This bill expands eligibility for the family caregiver program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to include members of the Armed Forces or veterans who are seriously injured or who became ill on active duty prior to September 11, 2001 (currently, limited to service after September 11, 2001).

Services to caregivers of veterans under such program are expanded to include child care services, financial planning services, and legal services.

The bill terminates the support program for caregivers of covered veterans on October 1, 2022, except that any caregiver activities carried out on September 30, 2022, shall be continued on and after October 1, 2022.

The bill authorizes the transfer of entitlement to post 9/11 education assistance to family members by veterans who are retired for a physical disability or who are seriously injured veterans in need of family caregiver services, without regard to length-of-service requirements.

The VA is authorized to pay monthly special compensation to seriously injured or ill veterans in need of personal care services and to their caregivers.

Flexible work schedules or telework are authorized for federal employees who are caregivers of veterans.

The Public Health Service Act is amended to designate a veteran participating in the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers as an adult with a special need for purposes of the lifespan respite care program.

An interagency working group is established in the executive branch to review and report on policies relating to the caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

The VA shall provide for studies on members of the Armed Forces who commenced service after September 11, 2001, and veterans who have incurred a serious injury or illness, including a mental health injury, and their caregivers.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 14, 2017:** Special Committee on Aging. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-364.
- **May 17, 2017:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-299.
- **Mar 9, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 9, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.