

S 833

Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Apr 5, 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/833>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (15 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Apr 5, 2017
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Apr 5, 2017
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Apr 5, 2017
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Apr 5, 2017
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Apr 5, 2017
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Apr 5, 2017
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Apr 5, 2017
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Apr 24, 2017
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		May 16, 2017
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Oct 31, 2017
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Nov 2, 2017
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jan 23, 2018
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Jan 24, 2018
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 14, 2018
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		May 24, 2018

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 1954	Identical bill	Apr 24, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Summary (as of Apr 5, 2017)

Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2017

This bill expands Department of Defense (DOD) sexual trauma counseling and treatment to include: (1) cyber harassment of a sexual nature, and (2) members of the Armed Forces on active duty for training or inactive duty training.

The bill sets forth the standard of proof, which may be rebutted, in the case of a veteran who claims that a covered mental health condition was incurred in or aggravated by military sexual trauma during active service. The reasons for granting or denying service-connection in each case shall be recorded in full.

DOD shall ensure that: (1) in a compensation claim for post-traumatic stress disorder based on sexual assault, battery, cyber harassment, or harassment experienced during active military service, non-DOD evidence may corroborate the veteran's account of such assault, battery, or harassment; and (2) behavior changes may be considered as corroborating evidence.

DOD shall: (1) report annually through 2027 on submitted claims to identify and track the consistency of decisions across regional offices, (2) inform members of the Armed Forces of their eligibility for services at Vet Centers, and (3) ensure that Sexual Assault Response Coordinators advise members of the Armed Forces who report instances of military sexual trauma about their eligibility for Vet Center services.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 11, 2017:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-320.
- **Apr 5, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 5, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.