

## HR 918

Veteran Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Feb 7, 2017

**Current Status:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

**Latest Action:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Nov 8, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/918>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]

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

## Cosponsors (40 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Radewagen, Aumua Amata Coleman [R-AS-At Large]	R · AS		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Bergman, Jack [R-MI-1]	R · MI		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [D-GA-2]	D · GA		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Costello, Ryan A. [R-PA-6]	R · PA		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]	D · CT		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Jenkins, Lynn [R-KS-2]	R · KS		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Meehan, Patrick [R-PA-7]	R · PA		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]	D · NY		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Feb 15, 2017
Rep. Royce, Edward R. [R-CA-39]	R · CA		Mar 6, 2017
Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Mar 9, 2017
Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]	D · CT		Mar 15, 2017
Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Mar 16, 2017
Rep. Buchanan, Vern [R-FL-16]	R · FL		Mar 22, 2017
Rep. Rutherford, John H. [R-FL-4]	R · FL		Mar 23, 2017
Rep. Loebsack, David [D-IA-2]	D · IA		Mar 24, 2017
Rep. Higgins, Clay [R-LA-3]	R · LA		Mar 29, 2017
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Apr 20, 2017
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Apr 20, 2017
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Apr 20, 2017
Rep. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV-3]	D · NV		Apr 26, 2017
Rep. Kihuen, Ruben J. [D-NV-4]	D · NV		May 11, 2017
Rep. Tsongas, Niki [D-MA-3]	D · MA		May 25, 2017
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Jul 3, 2017
Rep. Curbelo, Carlos [R-FL-26]	R · FL		Jul 19, 2017
Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Jul 19, 2017
Rep. Messer, Luke [R-IN-6]	R · IN		Jul 24, 2017
Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Jul 25, 2017
Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3]	R · CO		Jul 27, 2017
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Sep 6, 2017
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Sep 18, 2017
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Sep 26, 2017
Rep. Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5]	D · FL		Oct 24, 2017
Rep. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ-9]	D · AZ		Nov 6, 2017
Rep. Young, David [R-IA-3]	R · IA		Nov 6, 2017

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Reported by	Apr 6, 2017
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 8, 2017

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 2548	Related bill	Mar 14, 2018: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## Summary (as of Nov 7, 2017)

### Veteran Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act

(Sec. 2) This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish to former members of the Armed Forces: (1) an initial mental health assessment; and (2) the mental health care services required to treat the member's urgent mental health care needs, including risk of suicide or harming others.

A former member of the Armed Forces is an individual who:

- served in the active military, naval, or air service, was discharged or released under a condition less than honorable (except a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge), has applied for a character of service determination that has not yet been made, and is not otherwise eligible to enroll in the VA health care system by reason of such discharge or release; or
- while serving in the Armed Forces, was deployed in a theater of combat operations or an area at a time during which hostilities occurred in that area, participated in or experienced such combat operations or hostilities (including by controlling an unmanned aerial vehicle from a location other than such theater or area), or was the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment.

The VA may provide such mental health care services at a non-VA facility if: (1) the receipt of mental health care services by an individual in VA facilities would be clinically inadvisable, or (2) VA facilities are not capable of furnishing such mental health care services to that individual economically because of geographical inaccessibility.

The VA shall: (1) seek to ensure that such mental health care services are furnished in a therapeutically appropriate setting, and (2) provide referral services to assist former members who are not eligible for such VA services in obtaining services from non-VA sources.

(Sec. 3) The VA shall establish a process by which an individual who was discharged from the Armed Forces can seek a VA determination as to whether the discharge was under a condition barring the individual from receiving a VA benefit. If the VA determines that the individual is so barred, the VA shall provide such individual with information regarding his or her ability to address such condition.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Nov 8, 2017:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **Nov 7, 2017:** Mr. Bilirakis moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Nov 7, 2017:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H8550-8553)
- **Nov 7, 2017:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 918.
- **Nov 7, 2017:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H8550)
- **Nov 7, 2017:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H8550)
- **Nov 7, 2017:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Nov 6, 2017:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H. Rept. 115-390.
- **Nov 6, 2017:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 287.
- **Jul 19, 2017:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jul 19, 2017:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Apr 6, 2017:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote .
- **Mar 29, 2017:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Mar 3, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Feb 7, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 7, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.