

HR 1183

Acupuncture for Heroes and Seniors Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Feb 13, 2019

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Mar 1, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1183>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]	D · IL		Mar 28, 2019
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Apr 2, 2019
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Apr 2, 2019
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		May 7, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 14, 2019
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 14, 2019
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 1, 2019
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 13, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Acupuncture for Heroes and Seniors Act of 2019

This bill expands access to acupuncturist services, particularly for veterans and seniors.

Specifically, the bill requires the provision of qualified acupuncturist services for veterans enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system and military members and their dependents under the TRICARE program. A qualified acupuncturist is an individual who is licensed, certified, or otherwise accredited to perform acupuncture services.

The bill also entitles military members and their dependents to qualified acupuncturist services under the TRICARE program without a referral, even if such services are not medically or psychologically necessary to prevent, diagnose, or treat an issue.

The VA must implement a program to provide acupuncturist services in at least one VA facility in each Veterans Integrated Service Network in both urban and rural areas. Such services must be available to veterans enrolled in the VA health care system without the requirement of a referral. The VA must also establish the Advisory Committee on Acupuncturist Services to assist with the implementation of the VA acupuncturist program.

The VA must pay acupuncturists equivalently with how it pays physicians.

The bill provides for coverage for qualified acupuncturist services under the Medicare program and prescribes benefit amounts and payment rules depending on the circumstances of the service.

The bill also makes acupuncturists eligible for appointment as (1) commissioned officers in the Armed Forces, and (2) officers in the commissioned Regular Corps and the Ready Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 1, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Feb 14, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Feb 14, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
- **Feb 13, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 13, 2019:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, and Ways and Means, 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.
- **Feb 13, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.