

S 2949

PAWS Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Nov 21, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Nov 21, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2949>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]

Party: Republican • **State:** NE • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. McSally, Martha [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		Dec 4, 2019
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Dec 12, 2019
Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]	R · LA		Dec 17, 2019
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Jan 15, 2020
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 10, 2020
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 2, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 21, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 3103	Related bill	Jun 17, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Summary (as of Nov 21, 2019)

Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers Act of 2019 or the PAWS Act of 2019

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a grant program for the purpose of pairing service dogs with eligible veterans. Organizations that receive grants shall provide veterinary health insurance coverage, hardware, and travel expenses for each service dog and veteran participating in the program.

Eligible veterans are those who (1) are enrolled in the VA health care system, (2) have been evaluated and treated for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) but remain diagnosed with PTSD, (3) may benefit from a service dog, and (4) agree to successfully complete training provided by an eligible organization. Veterans are required to see a VA health care provider at least once every 180 days to determine whether the veteran continues to benefit from a service dog.

Eligible organizations are nonprofit organizations that

- provide service dogs to veterans with PTSD,
- meet publicly available standards set forth by the Association of Service Dog Providers for Military Veterans,
- have expertise in the needs of veterans with PTSD,
- agree to cover all costs in excess of the grant amount to guarantee the benefits of the program,
- agree to reaccept or replace a service dog provided to a veteran, and
- submit an application to the VA.

Any improvement in PTSD symptoms as a result of the provision of a service dog shall not affect the veteran's eligibility for any other VA benefits.

The Government Accountability Office must report on the grant program.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 21, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 21, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.