

## S 4657

A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate one week each year as "Buddy Check Week" for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans, and for other purposes.

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** Sep 23, 2020

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Sep 23, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4657>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]

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

### Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Sep 23, 2020
Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL]	D · AL		Sep 23, 2020
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Oct 20, 2020
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Oct 21, 2020
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Oct 21, 2020
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Oct 21, 2020
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Oct 22, 2020
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Oct 22, 2020
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Nov 12, 2020
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Nov 17, 2020
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Dec 3, 2020
Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]	R · IN		Dec 3, 2020

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 23, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 785	Related bill	<b>Oct 17, 2020:</b> Became Public Law No: 116-171.
116 HR 4290	Related bill	<b>Sep 20, 2019:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
116 HR 2898	Related bill	<b>Jun 11, 2019:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

## Summary (as of Sep 23, 2020)

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to designate one week each year as Buddy Check Week for the purposes of organizing outreach events and educating veterans on how to conduct peer wellness checks. The VA shall ensure that the Veterans Crisis Line has a plan for handling the potential increase in calls that may occur during such week.

## Actions Timeline

- **Sep 23, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 23, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.